

EUROPE TODAY: ENGAGING THE PRESENT

Session 9: Ten Imperatives

How to recover faith, hope and vision for tomorrow's Europe.

Ten imperatives:

- Hope requires a **vision of the future**.
Without expectation there is no hope.
If our expectation level is low,
we hardly qualify as the People of Hope.
- How then can we **recover vision, hope and expectation** for the future?
How do we become the 'head' once more, leading the nations towards God's purposes?
- Jürgen Moltmann: 'The church is to be an arrow sent out into the world **to point the way to the future**.'
- Can the following "ten imperatives" help us recover biblical hope for Europe in the 21st century?

1. WE NEED TO ASK WHAT GOD'S WILL IS FOR EUROPE

Is it really God's will that his will would not be done in Europe, as some 'end-time' prophets seem to imply?

2. WE SHOULD REJECT THE ENEMY'S DISINFORMATION.

Our adversary is the master propagandist, and we have believed too much disinformation about the permanency of Marxism, Islam, humanism and other -isms.

3. WE MUST RECOGNISE WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN THE PAST.

He has invested uniquely in the European peoples over 20 centuries, and still expects a return on his investment.
See how his Kingdom has spread - and will continue to spread...

4. WE SHOULD ADMIT HONESTLY PAST SINS AND MISTAKES OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

Many of today's headlines in Europe stem directly or indirectly from the failures of God's people in the past. What must we do about this today?

5. WE HAVE TO FACE UP TO THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PRESENT.

'Christian' Europe of all continents is particularly guilty of suppressing the knowledge of God, and has become a desperately needy mission field.

- *In France there are more spiritist healers than doctors, lawyers and priests combined*
- *There are more believers in China than Germans in Germany*
- *One denomination in Brazil alone has more members than all the evangelicals in Europe*
- *One church in Korea has as many members as the population of Amsterdam*

6. WE NEED TO LOOK AT WHAT GOD IS UP TO!

The shaking of the Marxist world over the past decade is just one of a number of indicators that the Lord still has purposes for the European peoples.

Expect the surprises of God!

Seven signs of hope:

- look at the shakings of God
- look at the new spiritual hunger
- look at the new prayer initiatives
- look at the new church planting
- look who's coming to Europe
- look at the walls coming down
- look at the new initiatives of reconciliation

7. WE MUST REDISCOVER THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM!

The Good News about the reconciliation of all things, through Christ's work on the cross, applies to every sphere of life affected by sin:

family life, church life, governmental affairs, business and economics, education, arts and entertainment, law and health, sports and so on...

8. WE OUGHT TO EMBRACE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE SALT AND LIGHT IN SOCIETY.

Only the Church of Jesus Christ has the adequate message and authority to stand against tyranny. It's time to exchange our minority complex for a 'creative minority complex'.

9. WE NEED TO TRANSPLANT THE CHURCH INTO THE CULTURES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

To survive the transition into the new millennium, and to appeal to the younger generations, we must encourage radical experimentation in the search for new relevant wineskins.

10. WE MUST SYNERGISE!!

- "Synergeo" - Roms 8:28
- God does not give the full picture to any one group or denomination or stream
- We need to be in proper relationship with other parts of the Body of Christ, as partners together towards the building of the Kingdom - locally, nationally and throughout the continent.

African proverb:

If you want to travel fast, travel alone.

If you want to travel far, travel together.