

CHRISTIANS ARE DIFFERENT!

1 Peter 2:9-12

Introduction:

- 1. Our our society, there is great pressure to conform.**
 - a. No one wants to be different.**
 - b. Even non-conformists conform to non-conformity.**
 - c. Peer pressure is especially great among young people.**
- 2. Christians must be different from this world in many ways.**

Discussion:

I. WHY ARE CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT?

A. Christians are “new creatures” in Christ.

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

B. Christians have been “washed,” “sanctified,” and “justified.”

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11).

- 1. To be washed is to be baptized: “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).**
- 2. To be sanctified is to be set apart, made holy, become saints.**
- 3. To be justified is to be cleared of guilt.**

C. Christians must be separate from the world (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1).

D. Christians are a people for God’s own possession (1 Pet. 2:9,10).

- 1. Israel was God’s chosen nation in the Old Testament.**
- 2. They were a nation of priests (Ex. 19:6).**
- 3. Each Christian is a priest today (Rev. 1:6).**

E. Christians are lights in a world of darkness.

“Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:14,15).

F. Christians must not be conformed to this world.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:1,2).

- 1. To be conformed - to imitate the pose or attitude.**
- 2. To be transformed - Greek “metamorphousthai;” English “metamorphosis” the process by which an ugly worm becomes a beautiful butterfly.**

G. Christians are sojourners and strangers in this world.

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul” (1 Pet. 2:11).

II. HOW ARE CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT?

A. Christians are different in speech.

- 1. Our words “betray” us (Matt. 26:73).**
- 2. Our speech must be pure (Eph. 4:25, 29).**
- 3. Good and evil cannot come from the same source (Jam. 3:9-12).**
- 4. We will be judged by our words (Matt. 12:36, 37).**

B. Christians are different in dress.

- 1. Some religious people wear special “uniforms,” such as the Salvation Army, Catholic priests, the Amish, etc.**
- 2. Christians must dress in modest clothing.**

“In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works” (1 Tim. 2:9, 10).

- 3. Adam and Eve made for themselves covering (aprons-KJV) but God made them tunics (coats-KJV).**
- 4. If it is a sin to look and lust, what about the one who provokes it?**

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matt. 5:27, 28).

C. Christians are different in recreation.

- 1. Television shows, movies, and books are often pornographic.**

2. Pornography and nudity have contributed to the rise in sexual assaults in our time (Prov. 4:23).
3. If one is physically what he eats, one is spiritually what he sees, hears, thinks and reads (Prov. 23:7).
4. Five questions to ask to decide if a certain activity is suitable for Christians:
 - a. Does it stimulate the wrong thoughts, desires, or acts?

“But each is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin: and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (Jam. 1:14, 15).
 - b. Will it hurt my influence?

“Abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thess. 5:22).
 - c. Will it cause others to stumble?

“It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak” (Rom. 14:21).
 - d. Can I do it with a clear conscience?

“But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatsoever is not from faith is sin” (Rom. 14:23).
 - e. Would Jesus do it?

“...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).

Conclusion:

1. Christians are different!
 - a. We are in the world, but not of the world.
 - b. The ship must be in the water, but is in danger when the water is in the ship.
2. Christians are different in destiny also (Phil. 3:20; Matt. 25:41, 46).
3. Are you willing to be different in order to have eternal life?
4. Change masters by obeying “from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered” (Rom. 6:16-18).

