

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1067

August 16, 2015

The Christian Is To Be Different

There was a time when our preachers and teachers taught forcefully that Christians were to be different from those in the world. Many passages were cited, including II Corinthians 6:17, “*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord . . .*”

Today, there is an element, even in the Church, that is saying, “We ought not to be different. We ought to mingle with people as they are, and not be a ‘stand out’ in our appearance or actions.” I believe this is totally false, and exactly opposite to all the Bible teaches. Consider the following:

1. **Our Language.** While the world takes the name of the Lord in vain, tells dirty and suggestive stories, and gossips and maligns, the Christian is to shun all this and use the tongue to glorify God and edify people. (Matthew 12:36, 37; Romans 1:29, 30; I Timothy 4:12)
2. **Where We Go.** While the world is at a place of drinking,

dancing, gambling, or illicit activities, the Christian is concerned about good morals and a good example. I Thessalonians 5:22, “*Abstain from all appearance of evil.*”

3. **How We Dress.** While the world sees how little it can wear, the Christian is concerned about modesty at all times, and is aware of the Bible’s emphasis upon lust and the shame of nakedness. (I Timothy 2:9,10, Revelation 3:18).

4. **Our View of the Sanctity of Life.** While the world seeks abortions, in many instances to hide their sins, the Christian stands against murder and for natural affection, and the sacredness of life. (II Timothy 3:1-5; I Corinthians 6:19, 20; Romans 13:9)

5. **Our thinking.** While the world is filling its mind with trash—lust, adultery, fornication, uncleanness—the Christian is trying to think on that which is honorable, clean, and pure. Philippians 4:8, “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*”

6. **What Is Most Important.** While the world regards self as the most important, and that which is to be satisfied, the Christian is trying to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Matthew 6:33, “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*”

7. **Our Homes.** While the world is attacking the home and bringing every imaginable pressure upon it to tear it down, Christians look upon it as a divine institution and a part of God’s plan to meet the needs of man for his happiness. (Matthew 19:1-19; Ephesians 5:23-28)

continued on next page. . .

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton and Shirley Parson. Sherry Crabtree** continues to recover at home after some complications following surgery.

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8. **Our Benevolence.** While others only think of self, Christians are concerned about the needs of others. James 1:27, *“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”*

9. **Our Worship.** While others are lured and enamored by the “gods” of this world, Christians worship the true God. (John 4:24; Matthew 4:8-11)

Need more be said to prove the point that Christians are to be different? Those Christians who teach that we ought to just fall in with the crowd (just so we do not appear different) betray their depth of spirituality and faith. There is not enough faith yet to keep them from being ashamed of this Christian life that calls for all who follow the Lord to be different. Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

—adapted from Max Patterson, Neosho, MO
via Berryville, AR bulletin

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When a child is young, he or she may want to do many things that look enjoyable such as playing in the street, eating candy and junk food instead of the healthy food needed, etc. The child may not want to attend school, take a bath, or any number of things. The parents constrain the child to do the activities anyway, because the parents know they are for the good of the child.

continued on back page...

Sunday, August 9, 2015		
Classes	23	I Corinthians 12:1-13
Preaching	25	Deuteronomy 11 & 30; Psalm 1
Contribution	\$469.50	
Evening	19	Psalm 88:1-89:52
Wednesday, August 12, 2015		
Classes	20	Ezekiel 7:1-27

Visitors— Aug 9 (AM) John Lay (Hiseville, KY)
Aug 9 (PM) Clay Glass (Hiseville, KY); Colton Irwin (Knob Lick, KY)

Bible Quiz

A form of a hand took Ezekiel by what and lifted him up?

Last Week’s Answer— The end (Ezekiel 7:2)

The commandments of the Lord are like this. Many people may question and ask “why,” but in Deuteronomy 6:24, the Lord told the Israelites, *“And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as [it is] at this day.”*

Let’s always obey the Lord wholly. It is to our benefit.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)