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DIFFERENT

Different Values in a Unholy Culture

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[TITLE SLIDE:]

LAST WEEK: Peter is writing to Christian in the MIDDLE of terrible Persecution

- God wanted His children to have HOPE
 - Reminding Believers that THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME
just Passing through / sojourners

 - Because this world is not our home.... God calls us to BE DIFFERENT
Different Values / Passions / Use of Time & Resources
Parents / Spouses / Kids / way we Work
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-

Stand to honor God's Word



[1 Peter 1.13-17 NLT]

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

- Temporary residents.... this world is not your home
- You have a Different home... You're just passing through
- You have a higher calling... God is calling you to be different

Biggest obstacle to you in fully following Christ..... is your desire to FIT IN

- The obstacle to being Faithful to Jesus... is our longing to look like everyone elseto Belong.... to this world
- God did not call you to FIT IN / but to STAND OUT
- Not to CONFORM to patterns of this world / but to be TRANSFORMED to be SET APART DIFFERENT is way we live

Why do we want to be NORMAL anyway???. have you looked around?

- Normal is Broke / In Bondage / Fear / Divorce / Tension
Sleeplessness / Anxious / Hating our Jobs / Depression

- Normal is the road that leads to Destruction

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad and easy to travel is the path that leads the way to destruction and eternal loss, and there are many who enter through it.

14 But small is the gate and narrow and difficult to travel is the path that leads the way to [everlasting] life, and there are few who find it. - Matthew 7.13-14

- God is calling us to be set apart.... DIFFERENT

PRAY: God personalize this message in our hearts //
Tell someone they look Different

New Living Translation



[1 Peter 1.14-15 NIV]

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

- Other words, was a time you didn't know any better - some are there now

15 But just as he who called you is **holy**, so be **holy** in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be **holy**, because I am **holy**."

- NOTICE... **it does not say He has called us to be HAPPY**

- In the WEST many believe God's highest calling for us is to be HAPPY

- God's highest calling for Jesus Followers is not their Happiness.....

His highest calling is HOLINESS

PROBLEM: Theology of Happiness.... It empowers "Personnel Justification"

"If God wants me happy then...

I'm able to do something that He said is WRONG"

- If God wants me HAPPY.... I'm not happy in MARRIAGE **I can leave**
- I want this THING.... I can Beg, Borrow, Steal.... **go in massive debt**
- Dating and in LOVE.... **After all we are getting engaged!!**

.....**It empowers me to Justify something Wrong or Unwise**

When we believe above all else that God ultimate goal is our Happiness....

Suddenly... DISCOMFORT.... couldn't possibly be God's will

DELAY, RISK and INCONVENIENCE

.....Couldn't possible be God's will

Then Suddenly we begin to worship false gods of...

COMFORT, MONEY, PLEASURE and THINGS

.....God is suppose to give me what I want o make me happy

GOD does not exist to serve us, we exist to serve Him

He calls us to be SET APART, He calls us to be HOLY

STRATEGY: Pick something to teach kids OK to be Different

EXAMPLE:

- Chucky Cheese vs Halloween

- If you want to raise Different kids.... some point in your life you need to be Different

- If you're NOT Different in any way...

How do you expect your Kids to see the value in following Jesus?

- They won't have any tolerance to being Set-apart or Different

- The way one chooses to be Holy may be different than others....

..... Bottom line is, we're seeking God for standards.....

we believe will be pleasing to Him

READ AGAIN..... NLT



[1 Peter 1.14 NLT]

So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires.

- How many of us know.... YOU DON'T SLIP into Righteousness?
- YOU DON'T FALL into Holiness

We have an Enemy who will cause us to SLIP / FALL

- Did God REALLY say.... not to eat of that tree??
- Did God REALLY say.... wait till you get married??
- Did God REALLY say.... you HAVE to go to church??
 - OK to post half naked photos on Instagram
 - Everyone else does it.... Don't want to be Different
- Did God really say not to watch that "MA" rated HBO show??
- Did God really say you CAN'T Listen to songs with those lyrics??
- WHATEVER IT IS.....
DID GOD REALLY SAY??

Well I'm better than a LOT OF PEOPLE.....

- Lot of People are **NOT** the standard
- We are called to be Different and Set-apart



QUESTIONS:



What is three areas I struggle most trying to fit in?



When was a time I put my happiness above God's call for holiness?



What are the biggest ways that I'm different from the world?

- Celebrate those ways



What is the area that God wants me to be different?

- We don't just come to church to listen.... We are DOERS of the Word

- We are allowing Holy Spirit to convict us, and show us, lead us

Why does this even matter????

Peter is saying this to hurting Christians....



[1 Peter 1.18-21 NIV]

18it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

You were rescued, Redeemed, Ransomed.... by Jesus' blood

20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him (Christ) you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him,and so your faith and hope are in God.

- It matters because Christian... **You were bought with a Price**

- It is through Christ

We need to understand.....

Living holy is not the pathway to Jesus..... Knowing Jesus is the pathway to Holiness

- Suddenly when we know Jesus... IT'S NOT.....

"I HAVE to do that" "I don't get to do that" "I wish I can do that"

- But our heart starts to change.....

"I don't WANT TO go against God" "I want to live a life that brings glory to Him"

"Don't care what EVERYONE ELSE THINKS"

"Don't care if they LAUGH" "Don't care if it's DIFFERENT"

Because of who Jesus is.... and what He has done.....

I AM DIFFERENT! not ashamed!

- This isn't outward modification.... It's INWARD TRANSFORMATION

This ISN'T NATURALLY... It's SUPERNATURAL!

LET'S PRAY!!!



[TITLE SLIDE] PLEASE PLAY SLOW MUSIC, QUIETLY

- For some, there's some area of your life God is calling you to raise the standard to be different
- Holy Spirit do your work in me... what ONLY you can do
- Show me God my own short comings
- Give us the Grace God.... Change our hearts, and renew our minds
- Help us to fall in love with you
- Break the strong holds in our lives

- You be doing something wrong right now....
- Maybe something from your past felling that God cannot forgive...
- Maybe... I really don't know where I stand with God because how I live
 - Not only does God love you there is nothing you can do to cause Him to NOT love you
 - There's also nothing you can do to cause God to love you more

- You may not be right with God right now... but you are here because God wanted you to hear of His great love and desire for you
- Only Jesus can redeem you from your empty life
- You are one pray away from being changed forever!!!!

COMMUNION

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26:26-28

JOKES

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17." The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

A pastor went out one Saturday to visit his church members. At one house, it was obvious that someone was home, but nobody came to the door even though the preacher knocked several times. Finally, the preacher took out his card, wrote out "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it, and stuck it in the door.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. - Revelation 3:20

The next day, the card turned up in the collection plate. Below the preacher's message was written the following notation:

I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. - Genesis 3:10