Are You Different

By

David Pharr

Spiritual Sword April 2008 pages 4-7

One of the most important questions as a Christian we must ask ourselves is, “Are We Different?”

This question is an important question to us as Christians because it may very well be a determining factor if not THE determining factor that gets us to Heaven.

The main factor that sets us as Christians aside from the rest of the denominational world is the fact that we are set apart from the world by our belief in the doctrine of the Bible and the Bible only.

Many in the world see the Church as different. The world sees the Church as not following man made dogma.

Sad but true, some of the Lord’s churches have fallen away from the word as the Bible has it and followed or made up their own man made doctrines to follow.

I Timothy 2:8 talks about the lifting up of “Holy Hands.” The “Holy Hands,” simply means a lifestyle that is not soiled by evil practices.

Isaiah 1:15, Psalms 66:18, and Proverbs 28:9 are examples of when the Lord will not hear or see our works when we lift up our hands in vain.

“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.” I Peter 3:12

BEING DIFFERENT IS EXPECTED:

It is important that we be different in our scriptural practices as well as in the life we lead within the world we live.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Friendship with the world results in an enmity with God. James 4:4

We as Christians must live to a higher standard. Conversion to Christ is more than a change of affiliation.

Christians are not called to be better than other people but to be the best kind of people. They are the best people because they live by the highest standards.

It is a new way of thinking and living. I Peter 4:2-5.

God’s scheme is that men should be conformed to the image of Christ. Romans 8:29

We cannot be different; we cannot be the best kind of people, unless every day we struggle against the ever-surging flood of worldly enticements and fleshly ambitions.

WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE:

It begins with the heart. Proverbs 23:7

If our life is characterized by a sincere and earnest desire to please the Lord, a righteous life will ensue.

Moral principles never change because their rightness originates from the unchanging nature of God. Likewise ethical and benevolent behaviors have their genesis in the love and justice of the Father.

Christian character is more than rule keeping. It is “Christ in you.” Colossians 1:27

To avoid conformity with the world their must first be a renewing of the mind, Romans 12:2.

I Corinthians 9:24-27—“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS: (Those Who Lift Up Their Hands)

Honest in all of their business dealings

Pay their debts in a timely way

Being fair and reliable in all transactions

Wear modest apparel

Chaste in their behavior

Abstain from all intoxicants

Shun places of worldly entertainment

Forbid this type of entertainment in their home

Avoid any appearance of immorality

Their speech should always be wholesome and helpful, never vulgar, hateful, etc.

Careful with their speech about others

Love their neighbors, co-workers, church members, and family

Equal in their treatment for all races, culture, education, or economic standing

Should be known for their good deeds

WITHOUT WRATH AND DOUBTING:

Be careful how we deal with members of the church, especially when it comes to matters of opinion, judgments, and personality.

CONCLUSION:

Conformity with the world is easy

The line of least resistance makes for crooked rivers and crooked men

We must struggle against the ever-surging flood of worldly enticements

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” Hebrews 2:1 NKJV