

Different

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Being different can feel uncomfortable, sometimes even dangerous. But different is what God calls His people to be.

- I. What does “different” mean for Christians?
 - a. Rom. 12:2 - Conforming vs. transforming and the renewing of the mind
 - b. I Cor. 3:18-19 – Lust and pride are of the world, not of the Lord
 - c. Some examples of things/experiences/attitudes that are of this world: Celebrity, materialism, wealth, hatred, revenge, etc.
 - d. Phil. 3:18-19 – Juxtaposition: Enemies of the cross vs. followers of the cross
 - e. Jn. 16:33 – Trouble promised, comfort offered, patience suggested
 - f. Why trouble? Because change is hard.
 - g. Renewing of the mind: Phil. 2:8 – Having the same mindset/attitude in Christ: Humility.
 - h. Jer. 7:3-11 – Passage speaks to false religion specifically, but also to what this world might have been like if sin had not entered the picture: No oppression of disenfranchised peoples, no spilling of innocent blood. Instead: Deceptive words.

- II. Ok, I’m different. Now what?
 - a. The Lord provides us with some templates for living.
 - b. Titus 2: Although instruction is addressed to specific groups, the concepts make for good advice to all Christians
 - i. Doing good for the sake of doing good? DIFFERENT.
 - ii. Self-control = common factor in all advice given in Titus 2. DIFFERENT. Antithesis of the world’s constant cry of “Do whatever feels right/makes you happy.”
 - iii. In your work, whatever it may be: Col. 3:22-25 – Working as unto the Lord. It is the Lord we serve. DIFFERENT.
 - iv. Titus 3: 1 – Be subject to rulers and authorities, be obedient, be peaceable and considerate. DIFFERENT.
 - v. I Thess. 4:11-12: “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life...mind your own business and work with your hands...so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders...”
DIFFERENT!
 1. What is meant by “quiet?”

- III. What happens if I live DIFFERENTly?
 - a. Jn. 16:33: “But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
 - b. So, right wins out every time, right? The result of Right winning the day usually isn’t immediate...or even apparent.
 - c. Patience! Ps. 27:14: Wait for the Lord.
 - d. You’ll be wearing a DIFFERENT outfit: Armor. Eph. 10-17

To conclude: Armor of God + Renewing of the Mind = A quiet life of service to the Lord here on earth, and the promise of heaven when we die. DIFFERENT!