

2/26/2023

THIS IS THE WAY: “GO AHEAD AND BE DIFFERENT”

I. The Way

*“He [Paul] requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any **followers of the Way** he found there.” Acts 9:2a (NLT)*

*“[Jesus]...**I am the way**, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6 (NLT)*

II. Jesus has a Way and the World has a Way...and they are very different

*“We know that we are children of God and that the **world around us** is under the control of the evil one.”
1 John 5:19 (NLT)*

“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.” 1 John 2:15 (NLT)

- **“SPIRIT vs. FLESH”**

“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.” Galatians 5:17 (ESV)

*“For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.”
Romans 8:7 (ESV)*

III. Go ahead and be Different because...

1. God is making you a NEW PERSON IN CHRIST.

*“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)*

“Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness.” 1 Peter 1:14 (MSG)

2. God has purchased you.

*“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.”
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)*

“For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless

Lamb of God.” 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT)

IV. Practice being *Different* in 3 Areas...This Week.

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by **changing the way you think**. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

1. LOVE people.

*“You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. **Love each other deeply** with all your heart.” 1 Peter 1:22 (NLT)*

2. USE YOUR WORDS to build up and not tear down.

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.” 1 Peter 2:1 (NIV)

3. Ask for a HUNGER FOR GOD’S WORD.

*“Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6 (NIV)*

“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

Keep the Conversation going...

1. Why is it easy to sometimes fall into the World’s way and not Jesus’s way?
2. God has made us a new person in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). What does that look like for you? How is your new self **different** from your old self?
3. What are some ways that you can practice **being different** this week?