



Pt. 1: Different In Just 1 Way

Questions for further study and application:

- Day 1 Read Romans 12:1-2a MSG. It is very tempting to want to blend in and conform to what everyone else is doing. No one wants to be judged for what they're wearing, or for not participating in office gossip, or for speaking boldly about their faith in Jesus. Sometimes, it's just easier to fall in with what everyone else is doing. Yet, God is telling you to avoid falling in with the patterns of this world and let Him change you from the inside out. Jesus, was the perfect example of what it means to be different. He never tried to fade into the background. Use His example each day to confidently live different, because that will allow God to use you to make a difference in someone else's life.
- Day 2 When you decide to become a Christ follower, you may think you have to dress a certain way, or speak a certain way, or adopt some other unusual behavior. The truth of the matter is you have no control over other people's words and actions, but you have the ability to choose to be different. Jesus was different and He wants you to be different, too. He wants you to love others as He loves you. Read John 13:33-35. Jesus loves you regardless of all your flaws, all your mistakes, and all your missteps. In turn, you are also supposed to accept and love others unconditionally and completely. Think about how much better the world would be if we simply loved one another, no questions asked.
- Day 3 What does it look like to be different in the way you love? One way you can show love is to listen instead of talking. You've likely found yourself in a conversation waiting for your turn to say what you're thinking about instead of hearing what the other person is saying. Read Proverbs 18:2. In a conversation with someone, slow down to hear what they are telling you. When you rush to come up with a response you may be missing out on important details you need before forming an opinion. One of the best ways to let someone know you care and love them is to just listen to them.
- Day 4 Read Romans 12:10. You can show love to others by putting their needs ahead of your own. Easier said than done, right? Our natural human desire is to look out for ourselves first and others' needs second. Yet, God is asking you to do just that. When you look at Jesus' life, you see that He did not come to be served, but to serve others. Start taking steps to put others ahead of yourself; it will take some practice, but it's a wonderful way to show others the love of Christ. It can be simple things like holding the door open for someone, or letting someone check out ahead of you if they have just a few items and you have many. You could offer to help a colleague with an assignment. When you demonstrate what selflessness can look like, you will begin to see others respond differently.
- Day 5 Your words can convey love. Be intentional about looking for the best in people, and build them up with what you say. Offer encouragement and compassion to others. Don't be quick to jump to your defenses when you're offended. Instead be quick to forgive. Read Ephesians 4:31-32. These verses remind you that God has forgiven your transgressions and so you should also be forgiving to others. Think to yourself this week that there is nothing anyone can do to offend you because you are going to quickly forgive whatever they do. Think before you speak and talk to God before you jump to conclusions. Ask Him to guide you with what to say and how to show love to everyone.

What's New?

Waters Edge is offering summer volunteering. It's a great change of pace and the perfect time to try something new. There will be short-term quick-start volunteer positions with zero experience necessary that will last through July and August. Sign up at watersedgechurch.net/summervolunteers.