

ROCKPOINT

CHURCH

“Uncommon”

In a world that has been shaken up significantly over the last few years, Christians have sometimes navigated things poorly, hurting those around them. In this message, we look at a crucial question that Christians should ask and the answer Christianity gives to help them navigate their faith in the world around them.

1. Why do you think the Christian faith can be widely discounted in culture?
2. How do you navigate your faith in light of that tension?
3. Culture doesn't only discount some of what Christians believe but also disagrees with the way Christianity teaches Christians to live. How have you seen this play out in your life?

Oftentimes Christians and churches judge, withdraw or conform when they have bumped up against a culture that discounts their beliefs and disagrees with their way of life.

4. In your experience, when have you seen the Church do this and how did it make you feel?
5. What tends to be the response that rises in you when you bump into people that disagree with you?

So, as a Christian what do you do in a world that discounts your beliefs and disagrees with your way of life? If you shouldn't judge, withdraw, or conform, what is the answer? What should we do? Paul answers this in a letter that he wrote to the Church of Corinth.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 RSV says: “Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

6. Why do you think it is so important to be watchful in a world of conflicting beliefs and lifestyles? What does it look like in your life to consider the future and not just the now in everything you do?

7. The greek word for faith means “to believe to the extent of complete trust and reliance”. Why do you think it is so important to acknowledge your inability to live this out and that you need God’s help?

8. What do you think it looks like to be strong and not compromise by doing what everyone else is doing? Is it helpful to know that you can ask God to help you as you navigate the tension?

Paul ends the idea with “Let all that you do be done in love.”

9. What do you think it looks like to do all things in love when it comes to relating to people who believe and act differently than you do?

10. What do you think would happen in our culture if Christians loved people where they are at instead of judging, withdrawing, or conforming? What would this look like in your life?

11. In what ways do you need to acknowledge your inability to live this out on your own and surrender to God to help transform your human nature responses?

Paul’s advice to the small group of Corinthian Christians living in a world of completely conflicting beliefs and lifestyles was to: Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong, and do everything in love. You can’t judge, withdraw, or condemn people when all you do is done in love. In order to stand firm in your faith, you can acknowledge that you don’t have the ability to do so and surrender to the God who helps you live this from the inside out.