

Intro: Couple months ago there was a huge national discussion because of a comment made about VP Pence's faith. Take a look at this and see what you think.

VIDEO

You see, we REALLY don't fit in our world sometimes. Our faith makes us different...and different is not always accepted. Sometimes the world around us things we are crazy!!!

Today the Apostle Paul is writing to us about where we find the **STRENGTH TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY!**
I Peter 2:11 Peter tells us that we are "aliens and strangers" in our world. (Some stranger than others...)
The pressure to conform...and blend in...is tremendous. Who wants to go to work and say...I pray...I hear Jesus...
The reality is, we ARE different...and it takes commitment and strength to live as a committed follower of Jesus!

In 2 Cor 10:1-18 pg 821

STRENGTH TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

1. We Find Strength To Live Differently: When We See Life Differently. 10:7-11

Illus: It's like when you know you are going to be having a family over with *toddler...MIL* (Entirely different viewpoint!)
When you live a life that is committed to Jesus...you don't see things the way the world around you sees things.

- We have a different standard:
Vs 2: Standard: Lit = "according to flesh" life lived with reference only to the physical
Rom 8:5 "Those who live according to sinful nature...vs those who live according to Spirit"
Measure life from physical Orientation: Standards, values, viewpoint feelings and attitudes that serve self!
- We have a different viewpoint:
Vs 7: Surface: Lit = to see superficially; to see only what is "before your eyes"
Physical w/o spiritual See that there is more to life than just what is physically present
We see there is an entire spiritual world at work around us!
Illus: Talking with one of my sisters on Thursday: "There really IS a devil...DOES want to destroy me!"
- We have Different Owner: 1Cor 6:19-20 "you are not your own...bought with a price"
- We have a Different Goal: Eph 2:10 "created to do good works"
- We have a Different leader: (live different way) Is 55:8-9 Vs 1: Meekness and Gentleness of Christ
Attitude: Meekness: Lit = *Quality of the heart; attitude of trust in God regardless of circumstances: (Cross: Into hands)*
Action: Gentleness: Lit = *Evenhanded, just, equitable in way you deal with others*

When you are seeking to live a committed Christian life, you are going to be different. Paul tells us that.

You are going to see life entirely different:

For example: Last two weeks...Giving To God: If you do that, regularly, consistently, proportionately, People think CRAZY
We DO it...because we see life differently! We actually pray and EXPECT God to answer!

2. 5 Key Questions:

Based on what Paul just taught us, there are 5 very specific questions we should ask ourselves this morning.

- *Is my standard in life physical or spiritual?*
Am I living my life day to day with an eye toward spiritual things...or do I only see the physical.
EX: What am I doing with my money? We just talked about it for two weeks...but knowing...and doing....
Do I use the financial resources I have for spiritual things...or just for the physical things around me?
Am I living according to, in keeping with the flesh...or do spiritual things ever come into account? Sunday Only?
- *Is my viewpoint deeper than just what I see on the surface?*
When something happens in my life, do I look for and seek to see what GOD is doing through that
Or, am I content to just take things at face value?
EX: Working with my spiritual director, discussing the most difficult time in my spiritual life
He asked me: "Where is God's grace in what happened? Where do you see God working?"
I'm like...you have to be kidding..I think I know a little bit about grace...
This looks NOTHING like grace! Nothing nice, gentle, godly, good, kind, merciful:
He said: What is the greatest example of God's grace the world has ever seen?
"You need a better definition of God's grace!"
- *Does God own me...or do I own myself?*
If you are still in negotiation with God...then the question is already answered?
Granted, there is for most of us a gradual transfer of ownership!
But we have to be in that process!
Does he have the right to tell you who to hang with, how to talk, how to express yourself sexually, or not?
How do you spend your money?
How do you spend your time?
Who are you going to marry?

- **What is my goal in life?**
Is my life all about serving me...my desires, my wants, my hope and my dreams?
Or does God have something to say about what I am going to invest myself in?
He is the one who gave me my talents, gifts, my abilities, my strengths
Am I going to use them for HIM? Or for myself?
According to Eph 2:10: You are God's workmanship, created to do some specific good works!
Are you doing that?
When was the last time you said..."God..why did you put me here...at this time, in this place, with theses people?
What is it that you knew from the foundation of the world...I can do PERFECTLY to serve you?

God, my goal in life is to fulfill EVERYTHING you visioned for me on the day I was created...

- **Is God leading you...or are you led by yourself...by others...by situations and circumstances?**
You see, what we should be doing is waking up in the morning...saying,
"God, this is another day YOU have given to ME. What do you want me to do today?
How can I honor you with the moments, the prayers, the actions, the attitudes of my life>
Not always some huge spiritual task:
Sometimes it means you are going to go to the job God gave you...work unto Him
Sometimes it means you are going to deviate from the path you intended that day, to go respond to opportunity: Jesus
Sometimes it means you throw everything to the wind...and just do what HE tells you to do!

Because guess what..He does talk to his children...and if He says go..we go...because He is our leader!

PRAYER POINTS:

- ***God...change my standards...***
- ***God...change my viewpoint...***
- ***God...take ownership in my life...***
- ***God...help me serve YOU first...***
- ***God...lead me in YOUR path...***

LORD'S SUPPER

1 Cor 11:23