

“DIFFERENT: VALUES IN AN UNHOLY CULTURE”

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” ¹⁷Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. (1Peter 1:13-17 NIV)

1. THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO FULLY FOLLOWING CHRIST IS THE DESIRE TO FIT IN.

MEMORY VERSE

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)

2. WHY DO WE WANT TO BE NORMAL ANYWAY?

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.” (Matthew 7:13 ESV)

3. OUTWARD CHANGE OF BEHAVIOR DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE INNER SOURCE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED YET BY THE GRACE OF JESUS.

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:14-16 NIV)

4. GOD’S HOLINESS IS A HIGHER CALLING THAN YOUR HAPPINESS.

Hágios—holy, set apart, different, pure

So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then. (1 Peter 1:14 NLT)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- 1. WHAT ARE THREE AREAS I STRUGGLE MOST TRYING TO FIT IN?**
- 2. WHEN IS A TIME I PUT MY HAPPINESS ABOVE GOD’S CALL FOR HOLINESS?**
- 3. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST WAYS THAT I’M DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD?**
- 4. WHAT AREA IN MY LIFE DOES GOD WANT ME TO BE DIFFERENT?**

Take time this week to reflect on the questions above.