

“Different Values in an Unholy Culture”

Series: Different

Read: 1 Peter 1: 13-21, Matthew 7: 14

- Read 1 Peter 1
- Talk with your group about the ways in which culture separates itself from Biblical teaching.
- When we talk about being “different,” we mean different from what is the “cultural norm.” What are some cultural norms that we should separate ourselves from as Christ followers?
- How do you differentiate between “morally acceptable” and “culturally acceptable?”
 - Verse 14 talks about how we once lived in ignorance, and implies that now we do not. How have you grown in the area of your personal holiness?
- What are three areas that you struggle most trying to “fit in” with society?
- Matthew 7: 14 talks about the “wide and the narrow road.” Read it, and then discuss the following: What is it about the “wide road” that is so tempting, and why does the “narrow road” seem so difficult to follow?
- When have you acted “outside your faith” in order to feel accepted by those around you?
- When is a time I put my own personal happiness above God’s call for holiness?
- What are the biggest ways that you’re different from the world? If you can’t think of one, do you think you should be able to, and if so, why don’t you?
- Think of a time you felt “left out,” because you chose to be “different” than the culture. If you can’t think of one, think of a time when in hind sight, you probably *should* have chosen to be different. What could you have done to make the decision easier? How could you have avoided the situation where you made a decision you regret?
- Where have you felt God calling you to be different? In your Finances? In your Relationships? In your communication with others in general, or maybe your communications with a specific person? How do we **begin** acting and behaving in a way that represents a Christ follower?
- Being happy is a great thing. What is the danger when we set aside ambitions of *holiness*, and instead focus on our search for happiness?
 - If happiness is my goal, and I feel God just wants me to be happy, I can do anything with the thought process that “God would want this, because it makes me happy.” We know instinctually that this is not true. When have we seen people justify behavior based on happiness, rather than holiness? (think of people breaking marriage vows, abandoning those we are called to care for, or many others)