

ARE YOU CONSIDERED STRANGE

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INTRODUCTION

- A. *“For the time past may suffice to have wrought the desire of the Gentiles, and to have walked in lasciviousness, lusts, winebibbings, revellings, carousings, and abominable idolatries: wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them into the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you;”* v. 2-4.
- B. DEFINITION:
1. Unusual.
 2. In text - that which is surprising.
- C. SETTING:
1. To Christians, who had come out of the world, but still lived in the world.
 2. They had left their former manner of life. And those with whom they had been associated.
- D. WHEN THE WORLD OBSERVED THEIR NEW LIFE....
1. They were surprised....thought it “strange”.
 2. Such a complete change had come over their life.
 3. What Caused Their Change?
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JESUS TAUGHT

- A. *“If the world hateth you, ye know that it hath hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”* (John 15:18-19).
1. That the world would hate Christians, Christianity.
 2. The world hated Him. Therefore we should know that the world will hate us also.
 3. What is meant by the term “the world”?
 - a. The forces of the Evil One.
 - b. World, worldliness is often used to mean sin, and sinfulness.
- B. WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED. Think it Strange...
1. From Garden of Eden, to the Crucifixion of Christ we see the battle of good and evil.
 2. Sin and Righteousness are no more compatible than Light and Darkness.
 3. *“He that is not with me is against me, and that gathereth not with me scattereth.”* (Matt. 12:30).
 4. We MUST be on one side or the other. No middle ground!
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JESUS - OUR EXAMPLE

A. CHRIST WAS CONSIDERED STRANGE BY HIS ENEMIES.

1. He did not fit their pattern or expectations.
2. Often accused of “having a demon”.

B. THEY WERE SURPRISED BY:

1. His Actions.
 - a. John 4. The Samaritan woman.
 - b. He even “ate with sinners”.
 - c. The “Great Physician” Came to seek and save the lost.
 2. His Teachings.
 - a. The “But I say unto you” series in Matt. 5:21ff.
 - b. How often should we forgive, Who is my neighbor, etc.
 3. His Message.
 - a. “My Kingdom is not of this world”. John 18:36.
 - b. “Thy sins are forgiven thee” (Luke 5:17-26). Man with palsy, let down through the roof. Their question...who can forgive sins, but God.
 4. A Spiritual Kingdom.
 - a. Freedom from sin and Satan, not Rome.
 - b. Salvation of the soul, not deliverance of the body from physical bondage.
 - c. This was all strange to a materialistic thinking crowd.
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WHO and WHY

A. WHO?

1. Those who knew us before we became Christians.
2. Those who live in “excess (flood) of riot.”
3. *For the time past may suffice to have wrought the desire of the Gentiles, and to have walked in lasciviousness, lusts, winebibbings, revellings, carousings, and abominable idolatries:” v. 3.*

B. WHY?

1. Probably several answers could be given.
2. At least one reason is self judgment.
3. They become uncomfortable in the presence of right.

C. That which is different is strange.

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WHY A PROBLEM

- A. Why is it A Problem...To Be Considered "Strange".
 - 1. We like to be accepted.
 - 2. We like approval - To be approved.
 - B. PEER PRESSURE.
 - 1. We hear this much about young people.
 - 2. I doubt that we ever out grow it. We should learn to deal with it.
 - C. SATAN KNOWING THIS, USES IT AGAINST US!
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ANOTHER THOUGHT

- A. *"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial among you, as though a strange thing happened unto you."* v. 12.
 - 1. Same Word. Strange - But its use has been turned around.
 - 2. We are not to think it strange - to be treated this way by the world.
 - 3. This is the way they treated Christ - We can expect no difference.
 - B. NOTE: His use of the term "Suffer".
 - 1. "YE ARE PARTAKERS OF Christ'S sufferings. "
 - 2. "But never suffer as a murderer, thief, evil doer, etc.
 - 3. *"But if a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name."* v. 16.
 - 4. Even though the world considers us "Strange"...*let them also that suffer according to the will of God commit their souls in well-doing unto a faithful Creator."* v. 19.
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CONCLUSION

- A. ARE YOU CONSIDERED STRANGE?
 - 1. Are you seen as being different from the world you live it? How different are you.
 - 2. Do you Speak out, Stand Against the tide of worldliness?
 - B. WHAT DOES THE WORLD THINK?? Of you.
 - 1. Do they think you strange. Different?
 - 2. FLY YOUR FLAG! We display the flag to show that we are proud to be Americans...
 - 3. Are we PROUD TO BELONG TO CHRIST?
 - 4. **MAY WE ALWAYS BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD!!**
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