

A LIFE THAT CANNOT BE QUESTIONED

In the world in which we live, Christianity is often mocked. Not only are Christians told to keep quiet, but now on prime-time television, religious people are looked down upon. The world makes a mockery of the lives that Christians are supposed to live. One reason that many people ridicule or look down upon the Christian life is because most people do not see a difference between believers and non-believers. When the world looks at Christianity, many times it does not see a huge difference and that is a monumental problem. When people watch your life do they see a supreme difference? Do you have a different attitude, different language, different style, and different convictions? Or do you simply float downstream with the world?

As Christians, we must make a large effort to live our lives differently from the world around us. We need to have convictions that we remain strong to and beliefs that we will not second-guess. The world needs to look at our lives and not be able to question whether or not we are believers. They should notice by the words we say, gestures we make, and actions we do, that we are different. They should be able to notice a true and genuine difference in our lives and convictions that separate us from them. Today, like never before, we as Christians must be different and show others what they are missing in their lives: Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4

WHATEVER HAPPENS (vs. 27)

People are watching us all the time. They are watching to see if we are any different than they are. They should be able to notice drastic differences in our lives compared to their own. We should have certain beliefs and convictions to which we hold strong, no matter what the circumstances are. The world doesn't want to only see that we have Jesus in our lives when everything is going well, but also when our world is crashing in around us. They want to know, as we talked about last week, that our faith is strong and real despite our circumstances. Paul says that "whatever happens," we should remain strong in the faith in which we believe.

CONDUCT YOURSELVES WORTHY (vs. 27)

We are to glorify God with all of our lives. That means that we are to give an exact representation of who we think God is with all our lives. When we are thinking bad thoughts, doing bad things, and saying bad words, we are not giving a very good representation of who God truly is. To conduct ourselves means that we are to give a continual and constant attitude. That means that we are to live in a worthy manner at all times of our lives. Worthy means an admirable or commendable service. We are to live our lives so that we are different than non-believers and so that they want what we possess in our lives.

KNOW WITHOUT SEEING (vs. 27)

Paul wanted the Philippians to live a life that would speak for itself. He wanted the good things about the Philippians to spread enough so that even if he could not visit them again, he would know of the good lives they had led. Can people say the same things about us? Are the things that others say about us positive about Christ or do we bring down the name of Jesus by the words that are said? We need to live the sort of Christian life so that others are talking about the differences in our lives. People should be encouraged to come to Christ even by the words that others say about us.

STAND FIRM WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS (vs. 27)

We are to live and work with other Christians in one Spirit and in one mind. If nothing else connects us to other Christians, our belief in God should be the connecting limb. We all have this common ground on which to build our relationships. We do not need to tear down others through our actions or our words. We cannot degrade and criticize others and expect our lives to draw people to Christ. We must continue to stand strong with other Christians and thus influence the world around us in a more positive way.

HAVE CONFIDENCE (vs. 28)

We should not be frightened in any way by our opponents. We cannot be frightened that we will fail in our attempt to live a life that cannot be questioned. We must continue to realize that we are not perfect and we never will be. Even though we are not perfect, we must continue to strive to live for Christ. We must have confidence in our Savior, knowing that He will give us the strength we need to stand firm.

SUFFER FOR HIM (vs. 29)

As we talked about last week, our lives are not always going to be easy and there are going to be times that we must suffer for Christ. We must not think of suffering as a bad thing, but rather an opportunity in our lives for us to get closer to our Savior.

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