

Weirdos For Christ

By Doug Hamilton

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians in *1 Cor 4:10-13* *We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.* ¹¹ *To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;* ¹² *and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;* ¹³ *when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.*

He communicated to them that in the eyes of the world the apostles had chosen a hard life for the cause of Christ instead of the comfortable existence in the present evil age. They were often going without food and water, being roughly treated and even persecuted, slandered and treated like the scum of the world. To that he coined the title "*Fools for Christ*", for only a fool would go against the norm of that culture in such a way.

We have a similar word in our modern day vocabulary called *weirdo*. Meriam Webster Dictionary defines *weirdo* as *a person who is extraordinarily strange or eccentric*. A weirdo is a person who stands out from the normal of the population. Christians are in essence *Weirdos for Christ* when it comes to the world's perception. The world holds to the perception to *eat, drink and be merry* (Luke 12:19), but the Christian has their *minds set upon things which are above* (Col 3:2). We are expected to be weirdos when it comes to the perception of the world.

The Natural Desire to Conform

In the human race there is a tendency to conform to those around us. When we are teenagers it is called *Peer Pressure*. In the cultural world it is called *Assimilation* and *Conformity*. Sometimes we apply labels like *Baby Boomers*, *Generation X*, *Millennials* or *Generation Z*. We all want to belong to the collective and usually it is the largest group among the population.

The problem is that the leader of the Christian movement, Jesus Christ, was not a *conformer* to the people around Him, but a *confirmer* of a new and different movement of a people whom stood out from the world. As far as the world was concerned, Jesus was a weirdo going against the norm around Him. Jesus said and did things that went contrary to the world.

- He said in *John 8:23* *And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.*
- He further prayed to God on behalf of the apostles in *John 17:14* *"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."*
- He explained to pagan Pilate before His execution in *John 18:36* *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."*

Jesus was a *Confirmer* and not a *Conformer*, for He was a weirdo in the eyes of the world. The same quality and teachings rubbed off on His apostles.

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- Paul told the Romans Christians in *Romans 12:2* *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*
- Peter told a regional group of Christians in *1 Peter 2:9* *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*
- John told a group of struggling Christians in *1 John 2:15-16* *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

The weirdo group we know as the Apostles were routinely ridiculed, persecuted and even killed because they did not conform to the “normal” of the world. We as the followers of Jesus and students of the words of the apostles are also called to be “*Weirdos in Christ*” just like our predecessors. What are some of the ways we do this?

1) We are weird in our communications.

Normal Communications

The normal perception of the world is to be deeply connected to our electronic relationships. Most of the world fraternizes not in person, but through Facebook, texting, email, Skyping and Internet chat sites. There is nothing with these tools of communication, but when it becomes the foundation of our relationships to each other, then it becomes a problem.

The Weirdo in Christ and communications.

The Weirdo in Christ is called to develop personal face to face relationships that involve a time and location to be shared with each other. It has to do with eye to eye contact when communicating, a shoulder to cry on when hurt, a hug to offer when encouragement is needed, a meal to share with when you are hungry and a visit at a nursing home or hospital when needed. This is the basis of the Weirdo in Christ and his personal relationships that matter.

Matthew 25:37-40 “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink?’ ³⁸ ‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?’ ³⁹ ‘When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.’

Suggestions for Weirdos

- a) Take the time to write one personal letter a week to another person.
- b) Invite at least one person a week into your home or be one of the people who are invited into their home.
- c) Make it a point to go to some of the many church organized events a year like a retreat, potluck small group Bible study, etc.

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- d) Make the time to come early and leave late to the services at the building. If there is an unfamiliar face, then take the time to meet them and follow up with them.

2) We are weird in our morality.

The world has a totally different morality than the Weirdos in Christ. They are teaching that eating with gluttony, drinking like a fish, partying like an animal, fornicating like rabbits and lying like a politician is the acceptable way of life. Nearly every television comedy show has a “gay” normal person and a Christian “Weirdo” who is the butt of all the jokes. Many musicians glorify in song wife beating, cop killing, drug taking, beer drinking, womanizing, pornography and lewdness. Yearly in the US...

- Dining out...\$683 billion
- Movie Industry...\$542 billion
- Illegal drugs...\$400 billion
- Alcohol...\$51 billion
- Gambling...\$40 billion
- Movie and Professional Sports...\$60 billion
- Pornography...\$14 billion

Though all those things might be fun in the eyes of the world, to the Christian they are shunned. We are weirdos because we do not believe in drowning our sorrows in drugs and whiskey, but through prayer, fellowship and the sound teachings of the Bible. We do not believe in wasting our money on a game of chance, but the sure thing of having Jesus Christ as our Savior and His kingdom the recipient of our blessings. Our movie stars are not Angelina Jolie, George Clooney and Matt Damon, but Abraham, David and Paul. Weirdos in Christ invest their funds not in fruitless endeavors like the above, but in orphanages, the needy, evangelism and other spiritual things. The world calls us weirdos, but we know better.

Suggestions for Weirdos

- a) Get out of debt
- b) Set a budget
- c) Live in that Budget

3) We are weird in our education.

The world provides a totally different education than we are to accept. Here is just a small list of this education.

- The world educates us that we evolved from monkeys, whom evolved from other mammals, whom evolved from birds, whom evolved from reptiles who evolved from sea creatures who evolved from single-cell amoebas, who just happened to form when lightning struck a rock billions of years ago.
- The world educates us against biology to explain that homosexuality is just as natural as heterosexuality, even though it flies in the face of biology.

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- The world educates us that the state and the teachers unions can be better parents to the children than the biological parents.
- The world educates us that receiving a good sound education in social issues and sports will serve us better than the basics of reading, writing and math.

We are “Weirdos in Christ” because we believe...

- ...that the world was formed by the word of God (Hebrews 1:4), not in defiance to the immutable laws of physics, molecular biology and chemistry.
- ...that a child needs a loving mother and father willing to provide for them emotionally, spiritually and physically (1 Tim 5:8). We are weirdos because we understand that babies come from a mother and father (Gen 1:28).
- ...that the parent has the right to lovingly discipline their children even to the point of spanking (Prov 13:24; 23:13).
- ...that parents have the primary role in the children’s’ education (Dt 6:7) than teachers, guidance counselors and the government.

We have and always will be weirdos in Christ when it comes to education. We are laughed at just like when the Christians who believed the world was round and were criticized by the “flat-earthers”. We are always going to be weird to them, so don’t fret.

Suggestions for Weirdos

- a) Read the Bible daily to learn how to better walk with Jesus. Be ready to earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3) and to give an account of the faith which is in us (1 Pet 3:15).
- b) Continue to trust the Bible first and foremost in your lives.
- c) Be willing to share that faith with not only your family, but also those in your circle outside of the church family.

4) We are weird in our ambitions.

The world has totally different ambitions than the Christians. They have a totally different mindset than those of Christ. The world is typically out for their own.

- The world teaches us to do what we can do to get ahead, to not be giving, but to be greedy. Get all you can and can all you get. Dog eat dog. Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.
- The world teaches us that there is nothing when this life is over, but worms, dirt and darkness. It is okay to act like slime for we return to slime.
- The world lives by the standard that has no hope in the afterlife, for this is all we have.

"Weirdos in Christ" are not like that because they have everything to look forward to. Weirdos in Christ...

- ...fret not when our bodies begin to fail away, for we have different ambitions.
Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for

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a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

- ...worry not about how the ends will meet, for God will cause them to prosper. Matthew 6:31-33 *“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ‘For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ‘But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
- ...worry not about where we will live, for we know we have eternity in heaven. Revelation 21:4 *“...and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”*
- ...are taught to invest in their spiritual IRAs not their earthly 401Ks. 1 Tim 6:17-19 *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

Suggestions for Weirdos

- a) Look at your calendar and assess where you are spending your time,
- b) Look at your checkbook and assess where you are spending your funds.
- c) Teach those principles to them inside the church and model it for those outside the church.

Conclusion

We are "Weirdos in Christ" and proud of it. We really do not care what the world has to say about us because we are right, we have a future in heaven, our Master is God and Savior is Jesus Christ. We are no more "weirdos in Christ" than the lost are "wackos in the world". Don't sweat it, but rejoice in your status. *1 Cor 4:10-13 We are weirdos for Christ's sake...*", so rejoice!