

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

How are you feeling about things these days?

In a non-Christian society, the majority may have never heard the gospel and, therefore, have few to no preconceived notions about Christianity or the Bible. A post-Christian society is the opposite. In a post-Christian society, the majority have been exposed to Christianity (in our case for generations) but are opting out for a different worldview – a different narrative through which to make sense of the world. In post-Christian society, people know the stories. They just don't believe them. Or they don't believe them anymore.

Andy Stanley

What was it that made the early church so powerful and effective?
What enabled them to turn their world upside down?

Weird . . . Strange. Odd. Unusual. Different.

Dear friends, your real home is not here on earth. You are strangers here.

1 Peter 2:11-12 NLT

Dear friends, you are foreigners and strangers on this earth.

Ephesians 2:19 CEV

Weird people don't think like normal people think.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 12:1-2 The Message

WALK THE WEIRD

Love . . . giving myself away for the good of another

THE GOLDEN RULE:

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31

THE PLATINUM RULE:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34

It's no longer love like you love yourself.
It's now love others like Jesus loves you.

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Galatians 5:6

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. . . . may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:20-21, 23

WE NEED TO LOVE SO MUCH . . .

1. WE ARE NOT AFRAID

Perfect love drives out fear.

1 John 4:18

2. WE DO NOT JUDGE

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church?

1 Corinthians 5:12

3. WE RESPECT THE RIGHT TO BELIEVE DIFFERENTLY

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

LIVE THE LOVE