

Called to Counterculture

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or 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 desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Counterculture

- a way of life and set of attitudes opposed to or at variance with the prevailing social norm.
- **a culture with values and mores that run counter to those of established society.**
- A group of people who do and believe things outside of what society considers normal or typical can be called a *counterculture*.

In the church we have our own counter cultures

- We focus on the count.
 - How many
 - How much
 - How long
- We see church like a counter a transactional counter...like consumers.
 - Looking for what we can get out of it.
 - Seeking atmosphere.
 - Desiring entertainment.
 - Are you looking for an exchange or to experience change?
 - Action not transaction.
 - Seek the Spirit not atmosphere.
 - Look to enter His presence not to be entertained.

- Being a born-again believer is now a counterculture.
 - Hollywood depicts Christians as crazy, out of their mind, lunatics.
 - Being a bible believing, born again, spirit led Christian is no longer mainstream and normal.
 - We should embrace our counterculture and strive to live a consistent Christian Life.

John 16:31-33

31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

- The first step is to believe, trust in Christ, call on his name and be saved.
- Second, know that in this world you will have troubles but the good news, He has already overcome the world!
 - Know it is temporary.
 - Move on from yesterday, don't worry about tomorrow, and trust Him today.
- It's hard to keep up and life can feel so overwhelming.
 - Someone said this recently and I found it to be a little humorous but felt it at a deep level. They said:
 - "We're five days in and I'm four days behind."
 - The truth is...you don't have to keep up. Go as far as you can today. That's all you must do. Put your trust in Jesus not the world.
 - Stop worrying about what the world says or thinks. Let go of the things of the world. This world is a product of the enemy and he is a liar and a thief.

John 10:10

10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Practical Application

Jesus prayer for believers - John 17:1-26

We are called out so we can be sent in.

How do we know if we are serving in the world or becoming like it?

- We must focus on the Word not the world.
- Strive for Unity
- Focus on loving others.
 - Make the Father's name known
 - 26I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."