

STANDING OUT: WHEN YOU DON'T FIT IN

ROMAN

12:1-5

"AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD". ROMANS 12:2

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN TODAY'S WORTH SEEKING WORLD, BEING "LIKED", AND "WANTED" IS SOMETHING WE ALL YEARN FOR. AND WHETHER WE WANT TO ADMIT IT OR NOT, IT'S HOW OUR CULTURE FORCES US TO FEEL, AND HOW OUR CULTURE ADVERTISES US TO FEEL. SO IN THE END IT'S HOW WE ALL WANT TO FEEL ABOUT OURSELVES, TO BE LIKED, CHERISHED AND APPRECIATED BY OUR PEERS.

BUT MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT GOD COULD CARE LESS ABOUT THESE THINGS? WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW MANY FACEBOOK FRIENDS YOU HAVE, OR HOW MANY PEOPLE FOLLOWED YOU ON TWITTER?

AND WHAT IF ALSO, I TOLD YOU THAT GOD ISN'T WORRIED ABOUT HOW POPULAR YOU ARE IT DOESN'T HURT OR CONFLICT WITH WHO HE IS? IN FACT, WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL ISN'T TO FIT IN AT ALL, BUT TO STAND OUT, WHEN YOU DON'T FIT IN!

THE WORLD SAYS, "FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION", "IF YOU'RE NOT FIRST, YOU ARE LAST". "IF YOU'RE NOT SOMEBODY, YOU'RE NOBODY". "BUT MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHEN WE BEGIN TO LOOK INTO THE DE SCRIPTURE, NONE OF THOSE THINGS ARE ACTUALLY TRUE. AMEN AND WE THANK GOD FOR IT!

BECAUSE REALIZING THAT YOU DON'T FIT IN IS A GOOD THING. YOU WEREN'T MADE TO FIT IN, BUT TO FULFILL YOUR CALLING IN CHRIST JESUS, YOU WERE MADE TO FIT OUT! SO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS YOU WERE MADE TO STAND TALL AND PRESS FORWARD, TO PRESS ON.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS GOD CALLED US TO BE DIFFERENT, TO STAND AGAINST THE GRAIN, TO BE A CITY ON A HILLTOP (MATT. 5:14. AND TO BE THE CHANGE FOR A WORLD THAT LACKS HOPE.

THE APOSTLE PAUL HERE IN **ROMANS 12:2** TELLS US THAT GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN TO US BY NOT FITTING IN THROUGH CHRIST

JESUS. ARE YOU LIKE CHRIST JESUS, WHO CAME TO SHOW US THE WAY TO THE HEART OF GOD BY FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS?

WE ALL KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD DIE, IF THEY WERE NOT A MEMBER OF THE IN CROWD.BUT JESUS, HIMSELF TOLD US THAT WE MUST WALK AFTER THE WAYS OF GOD.SO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IF YOU WANT TO BE LIKE HIM THEN TAKE UP OUR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW HIM.

DON'T SEEK AFTER THE WAYS OF THE WORLD, SEEK AFTER JESUS! LET ME TELL YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IT'S NOT EASY TO WALK WITH JESUS!

IT'S NOT EASY TO SEEK THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FOLLOW AFTER JESUS!

I SAY THIS TO YOU.YES! YOU STAND OUT MORE WHEN YOU DON'T FIT IN!

YES! YOU WILL HAVE FEWER FRIENDS, WHEN YOU DON'T FIT IN! YES PEOPLE WILL PUT YOU DOWN, WHEN YOU DON'T DANCE TO THEIR MUSIC!

YES! PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE SOMEBODY AND THAT YOU ARE BETTER! YOU KNOW THE DRILL!

BUT MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS JESUS CHRIST HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT YOU ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, AND A PECULIAR PEOPLE. (PETER2:9A)

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS GOD WILL SHOW HIS LOVE AND WILL TO THOSE WHO ARE COMPLETELY COMMITTED AND WILL SURRENDER TO HIM.THIS YIELDING OF OURSELVES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE IS THE LOGICAL,SPIRITUAL AND WORSHIPFUL SERVICE OF THE CHRISTIAN.THOSE WHO CONFORM WILL BE TRANSFORMED THROUGH A MENTAL RENEWAL TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WILL IN OUR LIVES.

THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT YOU CANNOT DO FOR YOURSELF BECAUSE THEY HAPPEN ONLY FROM THE LOVE OF GOD.

STAND OUT AND STANDUP CHURCH THROUGH THE LEADING OF CHRIST JESUS, YOU MUST TRY THE SPIRIT BY THE SPIRIT.

AS I CLOSE LET ME LEAVE LET ME LEAVE THESE THOUGHTS WITH YOU.

MANY PEOPLE WANT THE LIMELIGHT AND FEEL IT IS ONLY HUMAN TO WANT THEIR EGO STROKED FROM TIME TO TIME. PAUL TEACHES US THAT WE MUST RESIST THE TENDENCY TO PURSUE THE GLORY THAT ONLY GOD THROUGH CHRIST JESUS DESERVES.

HE FOCUSED ON THE SUPERIORITY OF GOD'S WISDOM AND TEACHES US SOME VALUABLE TRUTHS ABOUT THE PERCEPTION OF GOD'S WILL AND WISDOM, WHICH SEEMS TO BE FOOLISH. THE POWER OF GOD'S WISDOM CAN DO WHAT OURS CANNOT DO. THE PARADOX OF GOD'S WISDOM IS BACKWARD. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S WISDOM ENSURES THAT HE GETS ALL OF THE GLORY.

GOD IS NEVER THE LOSER AND THOSE WHO LISTEN TO AND FOLLOW HIM WILL NEVER BE LOSERS. THEY ALL BECOME THE WINNER BECAUSE THEY NOT ONLY FOLLOW HIM, BUT THEY LET HIM LEAD THEM

DON'T BE A LOSER, STAND OUT, EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T FIT IN BECAUSE THAT IS THE PLAN OF GOD...