

Living In A Perverse Generation - Part Two

WHO WE ARE, WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD (Philippians 2:15a)

We are children of God. We're not strangers to Him. We are pilgrims and strangers in this world, but we sit at the kings table.

- Our behavior, our actions our hope is different from orphans, cf. John 8:42-47
- The world is known by its actions such as lying, stealing, killing, and wickedness. These are all actions of the devil. It's known by passing laws that promote immorality and wickedness.
- We are children of God. We obey God. We obey His word. 1 John 3:10 **"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."**
- As children of God we are learning, the word "become" which is also translated "prove" means you are in the process of becoming. Ephesians 5:1a **"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children"** Titus 2:1 **"But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."**
 - Blameless refers to a life that cannot be criticized because of sin or evil.
 - Harmless describes a life that is pure, unmixed, and unadulterated with sin, much like high quality metal without alloy. Romans 16:19 **"For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil."**
- We are lights in the world. This is why God has us here. This is why God has you here today and why He has you where you are. The Greek word for light is used for the sun and the moon and the stars. It is referring to luminaries. Christians shine the light of Christ in a dark world.

You appear as lights in the dark world. In a world where morality is blended with normalcy, where killing babies in the womb is a right to privacy, where speaking against biblical marriage and family is considered racist or homophobic, you shine as lights to those around you. It's a dark world, a wicked world and God has you here to shine. Not to be depressed because a despot has taken over and making laws and executive orders. But to shine. To speak truth of heaven and hell.

Matthew 5:14-16 **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."** (Note: reference past Christians who have been martyred.)

WHAT ARE WE TO DO? HOW DO WE LIVE?

Cf. John 18:29-36, Jesus refused to be crowned a king on this earth. John 6:15 **"So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force and make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone."** The world lies in the lap of the evil one. His kingdom has no connection to this one. In a recent sermon Dr. John MacArthur says this, *"The*

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kingdom that belongs to Christ transcends the world. It does not derive its power from the world. It does not derive its success from the world. It does not derive its reality, its origin, its nature, its extent, its duration from any created thing. Christ's royal title, royal authority, and sovereign power are not derived or dependent on any created person, institution, force, energy, work, effort, or right. His dominion is eternal and derived solely from His own glorious nature as the eternal Son. His rule is neither given nor taken away by anyone. His power and authority cannot, by any effort, by any assault, be diminished, limited, altered, removed, replaced. His rule is complete, comprehensive, everlasting, over time and eternity and every soul; and none of that power comes from any created source. One day He will rule over all creation with a rod of iron in truth and righteousness." It doesn't matter whose in the Senate, Presidency or Congress, it has no connection with our eternal kingdom.

We are exactly where God wants us to be. We are exactly who God has made us, children of the Father. And we are to live in this crooked and perverse generation for His glory. How do we do that?

Philippians 2:5-9 says we are to live in humility. Have this "attitude" in you as was in Christ, He sought for a heavenly kingdom, so do we, cf. Philippians 2:3-4

Philippians 2:12-23 define a work towards holiness. Work out your own salvation doesn't mean figure it out on your own. It literally means a work towards holiness, more like God. Vs. 13 "**for God is at work in you**" and yes, He is working in the midst of this wicked world. The working out is being obedient, pursuing blameless, innocent and virtuous life. He is producing the good fruit in your life.

You can pursue holiness because God is at work in you. And you should fear and tremble at the fact of your disobedience. Literally this means a healthy fear of God.

In the midst of troubled times we "**hold fast the word of life**" we proclaim the gospel, His word, His faithfulness, His redemption.

This brings about something the world simply cannot fathom in human terms. JOY! Vs. 17-18 Paul says that even if he is martyred for the faith, I rejoice and share my joy.

- Paul is using sacrificial language here, he's like a drink offering being poured out
- They would bring wine and dump it on the animal and it would send up smoke
- Paul is literally saying he would be an offering and sacrifice to God as a sweet smelling aroma
- In his sacrifice he is saying he finds joy

Vs. 14 - Do all things without grumbling or disputing is the hinge to what we have covered in the text. It was Moses who was the first complainer...to God, Exodus 5:22-23 "**Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, O Lord, why have You brought harm to this people? Why did You ever**

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send me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done harm to this people, and You have not delivered Your people at all. The Israelites were good at this too, *“Why did you lead us here? Why are we in the wilderness? We don’t lie the food. We don’t have any water.”* Cf. Psalms 106:19-25

Do you think anyone can do anything to harm the church? To harm God’s will? To stop Him? Any law, any man? So stop complaining and grumbling because be the light of the gospel in a place and time God has put you. Cf. Psalms 37:1-11