

True Believers are Different

A list of true believers is found in Hebrews 11:. Without exception they were different from others around them. Abel was different from Cain. Enoch was different from any other person on earth. His unique faith caused God to translate him so that he did not see death. Noah was different too. Only he and his family were saved when God destroyed the whole world with a flood. The same kind of faith was also in Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and all the rest. Their faith demanded that they be different. The Scriptures teach that through faith they “**subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire escaped the edge of the sword, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens . . .**” (Heb. 11:33-34)

These faithful ones considered themselves to be strangers and pilgrims in a world where they did not belong. Their trust in God caused them to come out of the world and be separate. They rejected the world, and the world rejected them. They were persecuted unto prison and death. “**They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented.**” (Heb. 11:37)

This truth was especially relevant for the early church. The Roman World, where the church began, was pagan to the core. They worshiped many gods. They glorified sex and violence. They flaunted wedding vows and divorced their mates with impunity. They abandoned and abused both the infants and the aged. They depended on government more than they depended upon God. Christians were commanded to come out of the world and be separate. They were not to love the world, or anything in the world. True believers did precisely what they were commanded to do. They did not act or behave like the world around them. They wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. They were strangers and pilgrims of whom the world was not worthy. They were different!

It is increasingly obvious that our modern world is also pagan to the core. We too live in an age which glorifies sex and violence. We too worship many gods. We too abandon and neglect our infants and our aged. We too depend on government more than we depend on God.

If you think our modern world is sane and serious, consider the story of Elvis Presley. He was born Jan. 8, 1935 in a two-room shack in Tupelo, Miss. His father, Vernon Presley, saw a blue light over Tupelo, but couldn't tell whether it emanated from an alien space craft or K-Mart. Elvis, as you know, came from obscurity to be known as the “king.” He sold enough record albums to circle the globe four times at the equator. Money and fame, however, became his undoing. He abused himself to a bloated 260 lbs. and died on Aug. 16, 1977 from a drug related cardiac arrest. Since that time, however, there have been some 250,000 “sightings.” Elvis Presley Enterprises is still a multi-million dollar business. Elvis is now also considered the “king of the Internet.” The principal official site is that of Graceland and Elvis Presley Enterprises. Here you can gain insight into the Elvisian Empire. You can click on the Shopping Mall icon and select such memorabilia as a \$450 Elvis bombardier jacket or a pink Cadillac calculator. In 1997, the name of Elvis appeared on the official ballot to be the elected leader of Canada. Others stateside are clamoring to make his birthday a National Holiday, and to have his face added to Mt. Rushmore. If you want to get married you can contact The 24 Hour Church of Elvis. In addition to getting married, you can also purchase Elvis T-shirts, key rings, etc. or even a Shroud of Elvis. The First Presbyterian Church of Elvis the Divine also specializes in commercial products in his memory.

Do you really want to be associated with this kind of a world? Do the polling numbers about morality accurately represent your point of view? Do you want some prostitute in Paris to decide what kind of clothing your daughter will wear to the High School Prom? Do you want your son to grow up and be like the President?

Those who truly believe in Christ will dare to be different!

