



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!
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Series: Strange Things
Message: "A Strange Way"
Date: October 29-30, 2016

Learn

Jesus invites you to follow Him and live a "strange" life compared to the world. Jesus said:

You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. **Matthew 7:13-14 (NLT)**

What word would you use to describe the difference between the "strange" Jesus-follower and the "normal" wide-road person?

Take a minute and ponder this: King Solomon describes the normal life as a "chasing after the wind." He wrote:

There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. **Proverbs 16:25 (NLT)**

Here is the point of the entire "Strange Things" series:

If you want what normal people have, then do what normal people do.

If you want what few people have, then do what few people do.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:2 (NLT)**

If you are a follower of Jesus, describe one way you think differently from before you were forgiven.

Live

Fear of being an outcast often stimulates conformity. Once the Holy Spirit confirms to your spirit that you are forgiven and acceptable to God, you are free to be different. When you spend time with healthy, safe Christians, the grace and forgiveness you feel often helps you step out in faith—and be a godly form of “strange.” Are you allowing the Holy Spirit and others close by being vulnerable?

Love

How do you receive grace? Describe the process from the awareness of your need to the freedom you eventually experience.

How can you give grace without compromising truth? Hint:

“...we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ” **Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)**

Lead

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. **1 Peter 2:11-12 (NLT)**

Just as a sunset *invites* you to recognize and worship God, so the *example* of a true Christian life is a compelling form of evangelism!

What is your relationship with these “worldly desires” that “wage war against your very soul”?

Denial or Awareness? Love or Hate? Weakness or Strength? Fear or Victory?

Pray!

Jesus was “strange” and He changed the world He created. Thank God that He has created and changed you, and ask Him to help you be “strange”—in a godly way!