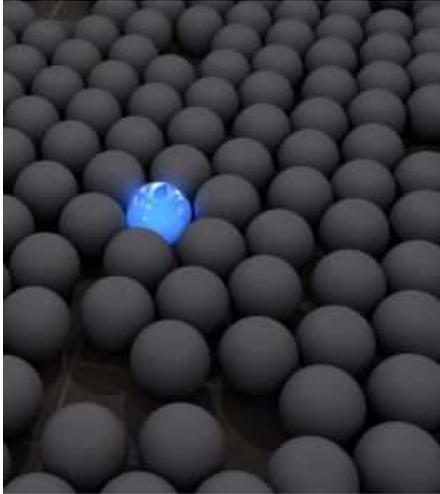


Are you *different*?



## Striving to be Different

As you evaluate your life and think about the changes you would like to make, it is important to consider whether or not you are living as God would have you to live. Successfully reaching the goals and dreams you have for yourself becomes more likely when God is navigating your path. In His Word, the Lord tells us that He is with us when we are living according to His Word and His will. As His children, we should strive to be different than those who are ungodly. Improving ourselves by behaving in a Godly way is an important step to reaching the other goals and dreams we have for our lives.

*If we are to build a stronger relationship with the Lord, we must strive to be different than the people who are in the World...*

The Lord is pleased when we have Godly characteristics. He is pleased when we are unique in a Godly way.

**What would people say about you?**  
Would they say that there is something different or unique about you?

*As people who are trying to live for God, we should be **different**... Our behavior and lifestyles should be **set apart** from those who are in the World...*

Describe yourself...  
What makes you different from those  
who are not trying to live for God?



Can people tell that you are trying  
to live a Christian life?

*Let's look at some bible  
characters and how they were  
different from people in the  
World today...*

David and Goliath  
*Read the following passage and  
make note of what makes David  
different or unique?*

I Samuel 17: 32-37, 45-50

## David and Goliath

- David is **different** from the other men because he was **courageous...**
  - David had courage because his **faith** in the Lord was strong. His faith was strong because of his previous experience with the Lord. **David had been delivered before (verse 37) and he was confident the Lord would deliver him again.**
  - As Christians, we should be courageous. Our courage should **set us apart** from others. **We need not fall apart when faced with adversity.** Our faith in God should be strong because of our **prior experience** with Him and we should be confident that He will deliver us once **again...**

Read the following passage about Joseph and Potiphar's Wife. *What makes Joseph different from most people?*

Genesis 39: 1-12

## Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

- Genesis 39: 1-12
  - Joseph tries his best to avoid sin.
  - Joseph wants to do right by Potiphar. He shows respect for him and his household.
  - Joseph wants to do right by God. God has blessed him tremendously and he doesn't want to trespass against Him.
- How many men do you know who would have reacted as Joseph did?
- As Christians, we ought to be **different** and **set apart** from this sin-sick world. **We ought to react differently than other people when confronted with temptation and sin.**

## *What makes the Good Samaritan different from other people?*

- Luke 10: 25-37
  - Samaritans and Jews were openly hostile to each other, but the Good Samaritan stops to help the Jew who was in trouble.
  - While the priest and the Levite, passed the victim by, the Samaritan shows love and kindness by coming to his aid.
  - As Christians, our love and compassion for others should exceed that of people in the World. The amount of love we have should **set us apart** from others. **Our love should be an active love and should cause us to do good deeds for others.**

## *How are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego different from other people?*

- Daniel 3: 9-18
  - Despite severe consequences, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to be disloyal to the Lord.
  - The three Hebrew boys had an incredible amount of faith that the Lord would intervene in their situation.
  - What do you believe most people would do if threatened with being tortured in a blazing furnace? Certainly, the boys in this story acted differently (in faith and courage) than most people would.
- As Christians, our faith should **set us apart** from others. When others see no hope...we should see the possibilities. We should believe that the Lord is with us.

Lesson Summary:

We should be **different** from other people and you should see it in our...

- Courage
- Willingness to step up
- Desire to avoid sin
- Loyalty
- Handling of difficult situations
- Love and Compassion for others
- Willingness to help people
- Faith that God will be there for us

When we are unique in a Godly way, we have Him on our side and the ability to accomplish our heart's desire!