

# What Makes Us Different?

Mankind is created in the image of God (Gen 1:26) and we have an innate desire to come before Him, to worship and honor Him, and to seek fellowship with Him. But notice the world around us; why are there so many different beliefs, so many varied paths that man has chosen to draw near to the Most High? This might typically be a question that one who is struggling with their faith would ask, but it causes us to consider as well...what makes us any different? Are we different? The Bible tells us we should be (2 Cor. 6:14-18), and that others should see a difference in us (1Pet. 4:2-4)...but have you ever stopped to consider what it is that makes us different? What defines us as the Christians we see in Bible from those days long ago?

1. We Believe in the \_\_\_\_\_ Power of the Cross. (John 12:32)
  - a. We give our best to appreciate why God chose the cross to unite us (Phil 2:7-8, 1 Cor.1:18-25) Consider His love (John 3:14-17, 1 John 4:7) Think about the example (1 Pet. 2:21-24)
  - b. We understand the necessity of the cross (Rom. 5:6, Heb. 5:7-9, 2 Cor.5:21, Heb. 2:14-15)
  
2. We Embrace Christ's commandment of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Love is a major topic in the religious world (John 3:16), but Christ makes a "new" commandment. (John 13:34-35)
  - b. Loving this way demands humility, forgiveness, and graciousness. (John 13:1-9, Col.3:13, Luke 23:34, 1 Cor.13:4, Rom. 5:8) Jesus says our love defines us (1 John 4:20)
  
3. We are Bound by an \_\_\_\_\_ Truth
  - a. Mankind continually alters and updates their belief system, based on changes in culture or society
  - b. God does not change. Consider His life (Jer.10:10, Psalm 90:2), His character (James 1:17, Mal. 3:6) His truth (Isa.40:6-8, Heb. 4:12)
  
4. We realize that we are \_\_\_\_\_ here.
  - a. Accept the challenge to live showing that this world is not your permanent home. (1 Pet. 2:11, 2 Cor.5:8)
  - b. Remember where you are headed, long for the day it comes. (Phil. 3:20-21; 1:21-23) There is glory to come (Rom. 8:18)

As we think about how we can live differently, how we can honor our Creator and be set apart for His glory, let's give our best to understand all that God has shown us in His word to help us. He will most assuredly come again (Rom. 14:11-12) and if we are willing to be different than the world, we can have a home in eternal glory with Him!