

Upstream Attitudes

Lessons for This Series

1. Jesus calls us to a lifestyle that is drastically different than the lifestyle of those who don't believe.

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world." - Matthew 5:13,14

2. A follower of Christ whose lifestyle appears no different than a non-believer's must ask himself why this is so.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." - Romans 12:2

3. Living differently than the world is a choice that is empowered by the Holy Spirit — but it is still difficult.

*"Now what I am commanding you today is **not too difficult** for you or beyond your reach. ¹²It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, 'Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?' ¹³Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, 'Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?' ¹⁴No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it."*
- Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Living Differently Than Those Who Don't Believe

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."
- Romans 12:1,2

*"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to **be made new in the attitude of your minds**; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*
- Ephesians 4:22-24

- This lifestyle is a choice.
- This is not automatic just because you believe!

"In the World" But Not "Of the World"

- There is a delicate balance between being "in the world" and "of the world." It is a tightrope that we walk!

*"I will remain in the world no longer, but **they are still in the world**, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me— so that they may be one as we are one."*
- John 17:11

*"**They are not of the world**, even as I am not of it."*
- John 17:16

*"But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to His disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners?'" ...
³²"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*
- Luke 5:30,32

*"But suppose that servant is **wicked** and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' ⁴⁹and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and **to eat and drink with drunkards**. ⁵⁰The master of that servant will come one day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of."*
-Matthew 24:48-50

Three Ways to "Live Upstream" in our Downstream World

"...to be made new in the attitude of your minds." - Ephesians 4:23

1. By an attitude of awe and worship.

*"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so **worship God acceptably with reverence and awe**."*
- Hebrews 12:28

*"For as I walked around and looked carefully at your **objects of worship**, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you..."*
- Acts 17:23

*"...and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have **come to worship Him**...'"*
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*"Then those who were in the boat **worshiped Him**, saying, 'Truly you are the **Son of God**...'"*
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*"While they were **worshiping the Lord** and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them...'"*
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2. By an attitude of humility.

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but **in humility consider others better than yourselves**."*
- Philippians 2:3

*"Your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus..."*
- Philippians 2:5

*"...to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to **show true humility** toward all men."*
- Titus 3:2

*"All of you, **clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another, because 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"*
- 1 Peter 5:5

- A humble person seeks to meet the needs of others.
- We need to remember, "It's not about me."

3. By an attitude of obedience.

*"As obedient children, **do not conform to the evil desires** you had when you lived in ignorance."*
- 1 Peter 1:14

*"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their **minds set** on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their **minds set** on what the Spirit desires."*
- Romans 8:5

*"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be **made new in the attitude of your minds**; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*
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- We make the right decisions about obedience well before temptation comes to us.

Consider:

1. You can (nearly) ensure that you'll improve in 2023! A partner.
2. For you, which of these attitudes is easiest? Most difficult?
3. Now what?

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