

## BORN INTO A DIFFERENT WORLD

2 Corinthians 5:17

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Becoming a Christian is in a way similar to some of the science fiction shows where someone lands on a planet out in space and finds everything totally different from what he/she left back on earth. When one is born into God's family by believing in God's Son, Jesus Christ, countless things happen and what happens next should not surprise a new born Christian, but it does for things have changed. He/she is not the same anymore nor is the world in which he/she grew up the same.

**1. The Christian will learn that the ways of God are not the same as the ways of mankind.**

- The spiritual realm into which he/she has been born into is quite different from the ways of the world.
- Things that worked for him/her when doing things in the world don't work in the spiritual world.
- Some things within him/her just don't want to change and he/she has difficulty understanding/accepting some of the spiritual matters.
- Christians have to learn the "hard way" that God's ways are not the ways of the world.

**2. The Church is similar to the "manna" that came down from heaven to Israel in the wilderness.**

- God fed Israel with what they called "manna" (food of angels) from heaven like rain.
- The Church has also been send down from heaven, as wonderful as the manna Israel received.
  - As Israel never understood all about the "manna" neither will anyone ever understand all about God's Church. Neither was originated by man, but by God and for man.

**3. The Christian must learn how to do things differently while living his/her normal daily life.**

- Someone likened being a new Christian in this old world as a person going to another country where they drove on the other side of the road and trying to drive on the other side of the road, totally opposite from habit and must do so in heavy traffic with no place or time to practice.
- There is no "school" where a Christian can go to learn how to be a Christian in the same old world he/she grew up in, make mistakes but no harm done and redo things until he/she can do them well.
- Thankfully, when a Christian does make mistakes, he/she can be forgiven of his/her sins and be restored again to fellowship when he/she fails the Lord. (And that will happen many times).

**4. The very same people a Christian knew before becoming a Christian will treat him/her differently.**

- Jesus warned that those who follow Him will have trouble in this world (*John 16:33*).
- Paul also warned that any Christian who wanted to live a godly life for the Lord Jesus Christ will be persecuted. (*2 Timothy 3:12*)
- The Bible is full of accounts where believers have always struggled to live in the world run by those who don't believe.
  - Read Psalms and the Prophets.
  - Any loyalty to God, the Lord Jesus, the kingdom of heaven is considered punishable by those who don't believe.

**5. Consider a person who becomes a Christian:**

- A person sincerely, genuinely becomes a Christian, is baptized, unites with a Church filled with other believers.
- That person begins a prayer life and leads his/her family to establish a devotion time of bible study and prayer.
- Then begins to tithe and tries to live as much like the Lord as he/she possibly can.
- Has his/he problems ended? Yes - No.

**6. For a Christian the problem of past sins is settled.**

- God has cleaned his/her record.
- He/she is now a child of God, has eternal life.
- His/her past is forgiven and his/her present is in the hands of God.
- His/her future is guaranteed by the blood of Jesus Christ and has a home awaiting him/her in heaven.

**7. However, a Christian has now a different kind of life to live in the same old world.**

- He/she must now adjust to the differences that have occurred.
  - Standards are different, values are different, objectives are different, motives are different.
- Many things once taken for granted are now sharply condemned by God's Word and the Holy Spirit who is living within him/her.
- Things upon which he/she once depended upon without question are now shaky, crumbly and questionable.
- Ego and self-confidence, self-reliance are gone.
- He/she is reminded that God said "*...apart from Me, you can do nothing...*" (John 25:5)
- He/she must throw him/herself entirely upon the promise of God and no more trust him/herself to do or live as God wants.
- Finding out all this can cause some Christians to never grow and separate themselves from the world as God and the Holy Spirit want and therefore are as Paul called them "carnal" Christians.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. All Christians face a "problem" and that is they have been born again, have a changed life but still live in the same old world and the world doesn't not accept Christians very well, if at all.
2. The former life of the Christian was made to live in the world, made for each other but the new life the Christian has been given is not made for this world, but for God's Spiritual world.
3. The Christian who pursues knowing the Lord will experience what Paul said, "*...Old things will pass away and all things will become new...*"
  - And then he/she can say "*...I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me...*" (Galatians 2:20)
4. Jesus warns us to think it over before becoming one of His disciples for life is very different.
5. Every Christian needs encouragement, guidance, a fellow Christian friend in order to live his/her life as much for the Lord as he/she can. Do you know a "weak" or a "new" Christian you can help?