

WE CAN'T BE NEUTRAL

Galatians 1:10

Introduction: "I'm not taking sides on this, I'm neutral." "I'm trying to stay in the middle." Sometimes there are situations we'd rather not be a part of but can't help but be involved so we try to "stay in the middle" and not take sides. Then on the other hand there are situations in which we are very vocal and active and are even instigators of such situations and our stand is very clear, either we are all for it or we are all against it. Life gives us such decisions every day. There are some things in which we just can't be neutral and one of those things is concerning our life as a Christian. There is but one way to live and to live contrary is to not live as Jesus Christ requires.

I. WHAT THE WORLD REQUIRES OF YOU IS CONTRARY TO WHAT JESUS REQUIRES

1. The world has habits and ways of life we must conform to if we are to get along with every one else reasonably.
 - Jesus says, "***Be not conformed to this world. ...have no fellowship with the works of darkness (the world).***"
2. Not doing as everybody else does (the world's ways) causes much displeasure.
 - It irritates the world and those who live by it's ways.
 - It shows the world how evil it really is.
 - It "brands" those who refuse to live by the world's rules as "do-gooders," etc.

II. ONE CANNOT GO WITH THE WORLD AND THE LORD JESUS AT THE SAME TIME

1. "***...no man can serve two masters... ...know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are... ...you cannot serve God and mammon (the world)...***"
2. The world tries to get people to believe that Jesus Christ and the world can both be brought together and benefits from both received.
 - Jesus said, "***...he that is not with me is against me... ...he that is not against us is for us...***"
 - One cannot be neutral when considering the world and the Lord Jesus.
 - "***...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? ...Whosoever wishes to be the friend of the world is therefore an enemy of God...***" (James)

III. HOW SHALL THE CHRISTIAN THEREFORE ACT?

1. The Christian cannot become indifferent to the world.
 - That would be almost criminal for it would show a lack of love and there are lost people all around and many of them are influenced by the Christian's actions. Therefore one should not become a stumbling block for the lost.

- One ought to make considerable sacrifices on the world's behalf.
 - Paul tried to become something to all men in order that some of them could be won to the Lord Jesus.
- 2. The Christian must be on his/her guard.
 - One must not comply with the world's wishes merely to please the world or to avoid receiving its displeasure, but only for its good unto salvation.
 - One must consider his/her personal motives when dealing with the wishes of the world.
- 3. The Christian must be careful how he/she acts.
 - Some say, "it's better not to look to the right or to the left, but proceed full steam down the broad line." (Perhaps like the Monks who stay in reclusion).
 - That sounds like the way out but it is not the way to bring lost people to the Lord Jesus.
 - It may be God's will to incur danger and difficulty for the sake of others.
 - What is an unsaved life worth to the Lord Jesus? It should have the same value to the Christian.

CONCLUSION:

1. The final conduct of the Apostles should be ours when one of them said, "*...we cannot but do the things which our God requires.*"
2. One must examine carefully the direction of opportunity to do something for the Lord Jesus.
3. The Christian must never even appear to concede or compromise with the world.
4. Jesus often separated Himself from the world, so should the Christian.
5. Whom do you seek to please most, people, the world or God? The world's highest aim is to please people.
6. Considering eternity, which must WE, Christians seek to please, the world or the Lord Jesus?
7. Whom is it better to be condemned by, the world or by God?
8. There is no neutral place when considering doing things the world's way or God's way.