



## Reaching, Growing, Sharing Christ

### What Has Happened to Us? Living on the Edge 1 John 2:15-17

Living in the twenty first century has created a culture whereby people feel they are forced to live opposite to God's words and instructions. Today, many well-intended good Christian people live as scavengers amidst a world of low integrity, disloyalty to Christ, political propaganda, religiosity, hypocrisy, and no love for their fellow-being. People who claim the name *Christian* are now bombarding one another with slick schemes and tactics trying to get ahead. In our society which is founded upon Christ the Solid Rock, many well to do Christian businesses are now ripping people off just to pay their next bill, while churches have become the peddlers of the gospel in order to pay their mortgage. What has happened to us, are we living on the edge?



Have we become so desperate and destitute that we dare not believe the word of God? Your life is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to God. God never intended your life to be compared to the world's living standards. "The comparison game is useless and nonproductive. It's not what you have, it's what you do with what you have that makes the difference". Learning to live the opposite of this culture should not be hard. The United Methodist Church was founded upon scriptural holiness and spiritual accountability: being cognitively aware of what our spiritual obligations are as Christians. Yes, our economy has been difficult, and yes people lack brotherly kindness, and love for one another. But Christ has called you to live differently.

#### **Romans 12:2**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

#### **1 John 2:15-17**

<sup>15</sup>Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. <sup>16</sup>For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. <sup>17</sup>And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

But just think of everything we should have learned by having this experience, however many have dismissed their learning experience in order to blame something or someone. Chuck Swindoll challenges believers to live with excellence, to go the second mile; to stop making excuses for non-performance, to turn our faith into



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deeds that change the world. God has made each of us a free moral agent. In other words we must each choose for ourselves. Care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, expect more than others think is possible.

But the truth of the matter is that the changing economy has actually caused some people to think twice about practical living and long term planning. Jesus was always a proponent of justice, mercy, and practical living. Christ never desires for us to live without, for he brought us salvation which means wellness. Christ wants us to live well. Well within our own individual means.

**Jesus says, give to all those who ask of you, never repay evil for evil, but rather, good for evil.  
Vengeance is mine, said the Lord. Be ye content with what you have.**

Heavenly Father, grant that we might be great risk-takers for the kingdom of God. Forgive us for making excuses to cover our selfish choices. Shake us free from the love of the world. May we enter into the freedom that comes from living on the edge with you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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