

Acts 17:6

But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."

Is the church changing the world, or is the world changing the church?
Are you changing the world around you, or is the world around you changing you?
Do you go to church to be taught the word of God, or to be entertained by the word of God?

Questions we rarely, if ever think about. But I was thinking the other day, “*What if Paul or Peter, or John or any of the early church members were to walk into a church today, 2000 years later, what would they say or think?*”

Would they jump onboard with the colored light, loud music, dancing around with hands lifted high, waiting to hear a funny comment, story or joke from the pulpit?

Would they be excited to see a coffee shop and book store in the church?

Would they be impressed on the size of the church building (Notice I didn't say the number of people in the building).

As they looked around while the word is being taught, would they be impressed at how many are looking at their phones and not paying attention to the teaching?

Would they delight in how many are actually whispering things to others while the teaching is going on, or even sleeping?

Would they be impressed with how much the church looks just like the world?

Would they shutter to think that the church gathers only once a week, and it's only for an hour or so?

Would they encourage those parents who run out of church at the end to go get their kids from Sunday School, instead of staying and praying during an altar call or staying to worship the Lord in song in response to what He just spoke to them?

Would they laugh as they hear others complain and whine because someone said something bad about them because they are a Christian?

I know this sound rather harsh, but the church has become a place of make me feel good, and soft to the point that it does not know real persecution. It seems to try to look more and more like the world, thinking that if they do, they will attract the world. But think about that, did you come to the Lord because you were happy with living like the world, or did you come to Jesus because you were tired of being like the world and wanted a change, a change for the better?

Look at today's statement by those who were not Christians, and what they were saying about those who were Christians, the church.

† ***These who have turned the world upside down have come here too***

Do people say that about the church now-a-days or are they saying that about you? Just because they say that we have a bunch of rules and are judging others (Which both statements should not be true) that does not mean we are turning the world upside down if you are doing those things.

Turning the world upside down would mean that the world is changing, no longer following false gods and doing things its own way, but rather serving and loving One God and being obedient to that One God. Yet how many will defend their false gods and way of thinking so that all know that it is what they believe and follow after, yet the church hides behind the four walls of the church, afraid to speak against sin and stir up the pot to the point that it is changing the world?

Jesus said: ***For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:17***

If you think about it, Jesus came into the world to turn it upside down, because before Jesus, it seemed impossible to be saved, especially the Gentiles. But Jesus came into the world to let it know that it can be saved.

Do those around you know that they can be saved too, or do they think that all they can do is be judged by God and Christians? Read Jesus' words again "***For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.***" (underlined for emphasis) and let's bring Jesus and the church back to the world, and stop allowing the church to be more like the world.

† **2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (NLT2)** *Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said:*

"I will live in them and walk among them.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD.

Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.

And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."