

7

SALIENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A BELIEVER AND AN UNBELIEVER

Introduction

1. When we obeyed the gospel *from the heart* (**Romans 6:17**), the old man was crucified with Christ (**Romans 6:6**). We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (**Romans 6:4**). Indeed, Paul says, "... reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (**Romans 6:11**).

As we begin studying the scriptures, we may come across doctrines that contradict what we have always believed or teachings that contradict some aspect of our current lifestyle. Here are two examples: Alan read that Jesus is our "great God and Savior" (**Titus 2:13**), which contradicted what he had always believed, and Becky read that women should "adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation" (**1 Timothy 2:9**), and she came to realize she was dressing like a prostitute! If, however, we are sincerely seeking the will of God, and our aim is to please Him (**2 Corinthians 5:9**), then we will believe what the scriptures teach and make the necessary changes to our lifestyle. Indeed, how we respond to the word of God reveals much about us.

2. Paul tells us what reckoning ourselves dead to sin involves: "But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (**Ephesians 4:20-24**). He then goes on to describe what this new life in Christ looks like:

"Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor [Zechariah 8:16], for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin [Psalms 4:4]: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (**Ephesians 4:25-32**).

3. But putting off the old man and putting on the new man can be difficult because it involves a great struggle: "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish" (**Galatians 5:17**). We can, though, through the strength God supplies (**Philippians 4:13**), prevail if we allow ourselves to be "renewed in the spirit of your mind" (**Ephesians 4:23**) and "walk in the Spirit". In doing this we "shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (**Galatians 5:16**).
4. We would expect, then, to see marked differences between a sincere Christian and an unbeliever. In this lesson we shall consider some of the salient differences.

7 Salient Differences Between A Believer And An Unbeliever

1. A difference in thinking (**Psalms 63:6**; <> **10:4**).
2. A difference in attitudes (**2 Timothy 3:1-4**).
3. A difference in speech (**Job 27:4** <> **Psalms 36:3**).
4. A difference in behavior (**2 Corinthians 7:1** <> **Psalms 36:1-4**).
5. A difference in motives (**1 Corinthians 16:14** <> **2 Timothy 3:1-4**).
6. A difference in dress (**1 Timothy 2:9-10**).
7. A difference in worship (**Malachi 3:18**).

7 Salient Differences Between A Believer And An Unbeliever

1. Thinking.

- a. Solomon wrote, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...” (**Proverbs 23:7**). It is our thoughts that determine what we are at present, which is reflected in our attitudes, speech, and behavior. This is why Solomon further says, “Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard” and that because “out of it flow the springs of life” (**Proverbs 4:23**). One way to guard the heart is to separate one’s self, as much as is possible, from the seven avenues¹ through which the wicked one maintains his sway over the whole world (**1 John 2:15-16; 5:19**). An unbeliever will not follow Solomon’s advice (**Psalms 10:4; Proverbs 15:26**).



- b. Paul says we must be “constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind” (**Ephesians 4:23**), and “be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (**Romans 12:2**). This will only take place if our thoughts are focused on that with renewing and transforming power. The best way to avoid evil thinking (**1 Corinthians 13:5**) is to focus our thoughts on good things. Paul says, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things” (**Philippians 4:8**). An unbeliever is not seeking to have his mind renewed and transformed. Indeed, they suppress the truth in unrighteousness (**Romans 1:18-32**).
- c. True, we cannot look into the heart (**cp. 1 Kings 8:39**), but we can see the fruit that proceeds from it: attitudes, speech, and behavior; these all reveal what dominates a person’s thinking (**Proverbs 23:7; Matthew 15:19**). The primary and salient difference, then, between a believer and an unbeliever is seen in his thinking. The following points focus on the fruits of a person’s thinking.

Transformation is the proof that one is being renewed in the spirit of his mind (**Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2**). Both renewal and transformation are *continuous*.

2. Attitudes.

- a. There ought to be a difference between the attitudes of a believer and an unbeliever; attitudes that everyone will notice (**Matthew 5:16**). There are a myriad of situations in life where such attitudes will manifest themselves, but space only permits a few examples:
- 1) A Christian’s attitude toward scripture. The attitudes of unbelievers toward the scriptures vary: “A remarkable book, full of good teachings and wisdom”, “A book full of myths and tall tales”, “A book full of both great truths and just as much nonsense.” Whatever the views of unbelievers, they all fall short of the truth. For a believer, the scriptures are the inspired word of God (**2 Timothy 3:16**), which contains all that one needs to live a godly life (**2 Peter 1:3**). Affirming the scriptures as the inspired word of God is bound to invite ridicule, but it simply highlights the difference in attitude between a believer and an unbeliever.

¹ [1] What are the seven avenues through which Satan maintains his sway over the whole world? Many ask out of curiosity, some to enter into contention, and a few with a sincere desire to break free of them. I have no desire to satisfy the curious or to enter into contention, but to the sincere, I say, it is not necessary to reveal them because they are all around you in plain sight, they are known to your heart and mind, and through your meditation they are made manifest. Therefore, discover them and free yourself (**David Collins**, Advice For Daily Living, Set 16:19). [2] People say, “I want to know the seven avenues through which the devil maintains his sway over the whole world, that I might break free”. But when they are revealed, many are filled with sorrow because their love of the things of the world is greater than their desire to pursue holiness. Yet there are some that rejoice and free themselves from the influence and sway of the wicked one (**David Collins**, Advice For Daily Living, Set 11:11). [3] You may hear someone make reference to the “seven avenues through which Satan maintains his sway over the whole world” (**1 John 5:19**), and it is quite natural for a curious person to ask, “What are these ‘seven avenues’?” However, the mention of them is meant as a seed in order to provoke you to discover them for yourself and break free from them. The seven avenues are in plain sight and revealed as you meditate on the matter (**David Cambridge**, Nuggets Of Truth And Wisdom, Vol. II, #642).

- 2) A Christian's attitude toward his parents. If I had to choose one word that sums up the whole of child's attitude toward his parents, it would be the word *honor*. For me, the word *honor* encompasses all of child's responsibility and duty toward his parents. Dishonor was prevalent among pagans (**Romans 1:30**²); the Pharisees dishonored their parents by failing to provide for their needs (**Mark 7:6-13**), and Paul says that disobedience to parents (disobedience is a manifestation of dishonor) would be a characteristic of the last days (**2 Timothy 3:2**). A Christian's attitude toward his parents ought always to be one of honor, which means recognizing and submitting to their authority (**Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20**) and providing for them in their old age (**1 Timothy 5:4, 8**). While many unbelievers give lip service to honoring their parents, a Christian demonstrates it. A believer and an unbeliever may honor his parents, but the difference is in the motive.
 - 3) A Christian's attitude toward governing authorities. It is in the home that a child learns to respect and honor those in authority: parents, school teachers, elders of the church, police officers, and government ministers. A characteristic of the last days is disobedience to parents (**2 Timothy 3:2**); indicative of a total lack of honor for one's parents and, no doubt, of a lack of respect for authority in general. The disrespectful attitude toward authority that is all too evident can only be expected to get worse. A Christian's attitude toward authority will be manifestly salient: a Christian understands that "... there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God", and so he submits to the government, pays his taxes, and gives due honor to those in authority (**Romans 13:1-7**). It is such an attitude toward authority – manifested in one's obedience – that will lay to rest any accusations that the religion of Christianity made them bad subjects (**1 Peter 2:15**). An unbeliever's attitude toward authority continues to wax worse, but a Christian's attitude is one that is conspicuous and an example to all.
 - 4) A Christian's attitude toward masters and servants. The institution of slavery as it existed in the first century and in England no longer exists, and so we normally apply the principles in these verses to employers and employees. Reading through two of the principle passages on this topic we get an idea of the problems that existed in that day, but which are also prevalent in our own day: **Masters**: threatening, not being fair and just. **Servants**: disobedience, serving only with eyeservice and insincerely, pilfering. I don't doubt that the bad behavior of employers and employees is just as prevalent today. If a Christian obeys the instructions in the passages (**Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-4:1; Titus 2:9-10**), he will stand out as either a great worker or a trouble-maker; it just depends on the situation. An unbeliever's behavior is governed by selfishness, but a Christian's behavior is governed by God's word.
 - 5) A Christian's attitude toward his brethren. A characteristic of the last days is that "men will be lovers of *themselves*" and "lovers of *money*" and "lovers of *pleasure*", and all this "rather than lovers of God" (**2 Timothy 3:1-4**); it is the normal and acceptable behavior of our own day! A Christian, more than ever, really stands out in this wicked generation because his attitudes are completely opposite to those of the world: a Christian, rather than being a lover of self, looks out for the interests and well being of others (**Philippians 2:4; 1 Corinthians 10:24**); rather than being a lover of money, is content with food and clothing (**1 Timothy 6:8; Matthew 6:19**); rather than being a lover of pleasure, makes it his aim to please God (**2 Corinthians 5:9; 1 Corinthians 10:31**). But what really distinguishes us as Christians is our love for one another (**Romans 12:10, 16; 13:8; 14:13; 15:5; 1 Corinthians 6:7; 12:25; Galatians 5:13; 6:2; Ephesians 4:2, 32; 5:21; Colossians 3:13; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25; James 4:11; 5:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 3:8; 4:8-10; 5:5**), and it is by this love that all know that we are disciples of Christ (**John 13:35**). Unbelievers exercise worldly love, but a Christian exercises divine love; a love revealed (**Romans 5:8**) and learned from the Father (**1 Thessalonians 4:9**).
- b. The attitudes of believers and unbelievers are vastly different, and everything you can observe about a person is a reflection of their attitudes. The attitudes of a Christian cannot be hidden and they shine brightly in a wicked generation as an example to unbelievers. Paul says, "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (**Philippians 2:14-15**).

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:5-7).

² Paul says that children were "disobedient to their parents", which is just one manifestation of a general dishonor of one's parents.

- c. There ought to be a marked difference in attitudes between believers and unbelievers, but perhaps the most crucial is the attitude toward the word of God because one's eternal destiny is determined by it.

3. Speech.

a. The problem we have as human beings is that we tend to speak as soon as we think of something without giving due thought to what we are about to say. The results are: (i) saying things we didn't mean – hurtful things, foolish things, etc. (ii) saying things we shouldn't say – revealing confidences, etc. (iii) saying wicked things - gossip, slander, blasphemy, etc. The list, of course, is endless. The point is, whether believer or unbeliever, no one is innocent; none of us is able to control his tongue. James says, "... no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (**James 3:8**).

b. Despite the fact that no man can tame the tongue, there is a marked difference between the speech of believers and unbelievers. This difference can be traced back to an attitude: (i) A Christian's attitude: "My lips shall not speak untruth, nor shall my tongue utter deceit" (**Job 27:4; cp. Psalms 17:3; 39:1; 141:3**). This means controlling one's thoughts: "... bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). (ii) In describing the wicked, David says, "the words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit" (**Psalms 36:3**).

c. An unbeliever has no fear of God (**Psalms 36:1**) and no concerns about being judged for every idle word spoken (**Matthew 12:36**), and so he speaks as he wishes: blaspheming, swearing, gossiping, slandering, etc. A Christian, though, does have such concerns and, he not only refrains from all manner of corrupt language, but strives for excellence in speech. Paul says, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (**Colossians 4:6; cp. Ephesians 4:29; 5:4**).

4. Behavior.

a. We all know how unbelievers behave (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**) and we are aware of the depths of depravity to which man can plummet (**Romans 1:18-32**); at least from what we can observe! You may have thought the Jews were corrupt and wicked at times, but just how corrupt and wicked was unknown to the masses (**Ezekiel 8:1-18**). Likewise, many today practice abominations that are hidden from the masses.

b. Those who have come to Christ have been redeemed (**1 Peter 1:18-19**) and escaped the corruption that is in the world (**2 Peter 1:4**) in order to pursue holiness (**Romans 6:22; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14**). The behavior of a Christian is governed by this truth and command: "You shall be holy, for I Jehovah your God am holy" (**Leviticus 19:2**). Peter writes, "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in *all* your conduct, because it is written, Be holy, for I am holy" (**1 Peter 1:15-16**). In general, a Christian's conduct must be worthy of the gospel of Christ (**Philippians 1:27**), without covetousness (**Hebrews 13:5**), and honorable among the Gentiles (**1 Peter 2:12**). A Christian will stand out in this respect because all his behavior is motivated by love (**1 Corinthians 16:14; 13:4-7**). In general, an unbeliever's conduct is motivated by selfishness and a believer's behavior is motivated by love.

Five Biblical Principles To Consider Before We Ever Open Our Lips:

Listen. Be silent in your mind as well as in your mouth. "Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent" (**Proverbs 17:27-28**).

Be teachable. Are you in the wrong? If so, how can you respond in humility, grace, and repentance? If you genuinely desire to grow in Christ-likeness, then remember that God uses iron to sharpen iron, and frequently, there will be sparks (**Proverbs 27:17**).

Think. Take every thought captive to obey Christ (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**). We are in a spiritual struggle against an enemy who seeks to divide us. Don't let your thoughts grow vengeful, spiteful, or believe lies about others. Be disciplined in your thought life.

Seek unity. We are one body with many parts. Since this is true, then each believer's mission is the same. Think about it, is the eye's mission different than the heart's? In its function - what it does - yes. In its mission - why it does it - no. Remember, we are one, a unified whole. Seek unity between yourself and your brothers and sisters because we're playing for the same team.

Show love over winning an argument. Always speak the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**), because love seeks unity over division and peace over strife (see especially **1 Corinthians 13:1-7**). Sometimes though, people are simply wrong, misled, or in sin. When this is the case, don't shrink from the truth, but don't use it as a weapon to wound either. Love reconciles; pride dominates.

Our lives will never be entirely free from controversy until Jesus returns. Until then, let's remember His words, "By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (**John 13:35**).

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- c. As a Christian, your conduct will either have an influence for good or bad. (i) Bad behavior will cause others to blaspheme the name of God (2 Samuel 12:14), (ii) Good behavior can silence foolish men (1 Peter 2:15), win a soul (1 Peter 3:1-2), and adorn the doctrine of Christ (Titus 2:9-10).

5. Motives.

- a. When we talk about *motive*, we simply mean *the reason for doing something*. There is a great difference between the motives of Christians and unbelievers. It should be made clear that not all the motives of unbelievers are evil; indeed, the motives of many unbelievers are often selfless and self-sacrificing.
- b. But the big difference between a Christian's motives and an unbelievers motives is (i) A Christian is motivated by a desire to please (2 Corinthians 5:9) and glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31), but an unbeliever is not, and (ii) All of a Christian's actions spring from love (1 Corinthians 16:14), but with an unbeliever this is not so. It is important to note that this love is *agape*; it is a love that a Christian has learnt of God (1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 4:19).
- c. A Christian whose works are motivated by love receives a benefit to his soul. But, of course, he receives no such benefit if his works are not motivated by love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Consider Ananias and Sapphira; they gave, but what was their motive (Acts 5:1-11)?!

6. Dress.

- a. While we agree with the principle that both men and women³ ought to adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation (1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3-5; cp. Deuteronomy 22:5), we seem to have a problem with *application*. Indeed, (i) some are careful not to expose any flesh as to excite the opposite sex, and (ii) others have no concern for such matters and have only fashion and looking good in mind. Consider: if there were no such thing as immodest dress, then Paul would hardly be commanding it, would he?!
- b. Paul says, "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; in like manner also, that the women **adorn** themselves in **modest apparel**, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works" (1 Timothy 2:8-10).

1) A brief look at the words adorn, modest, and apparel.

- a) The basic meaning of the word "adorn" (*kosmeō*) is order (order is the accurate arrangement of things). The adornment of the Christian woman should be orderly, and this orderliness must not extend merely to the relationship of articles of clothing one to another, but also to the relationship of that apparel to her Christian character and testimony. In other words, the apparel must be congruous with, fitting to, and consistent with what she is, a child of God (see Wuest). All this comports with what Paul says in verse 10.
- b) The basic meaning of the word "modest" (*kosmios*) is well arranged. "The well-ordering is not of dress and demeanor only, but of the inner life, uttering indeed and expressing itself in outward conversation" (Trench).
- c) The word "apparel" is actually broader in meaning than our English word: "It conveys the idea of external appearance, principally in dress. It is deportment, as exhibited externally, whether in look, manner or dress" (Wuest).

The words adorn and modest are practically synonymous, but in this context there is a difference involving the matter of emphasis. The word *adorn* emphasizes the need for giving attention to the orderly and neat arrangement of whatever is worn. The word *modest* emphasizes the need for avoiding excess.

³ The fact that the scriptures cited address only women does not mean they have no application to men. Women are specifically addressed simply because, in general, they have the biggest problem in regards to dressing modestly. We see the same thing when Jesus warns against lusting and committing adultery in the heart; the warning is addressed to men only because they have the biggest problem in regards to lust. In both cases, though, both men and women must avoid lust and dressing immodestly.

- 2) These words – adorn, modest, apparel – involve the inward man of the heart; which reminds us of Solomon’s words: “Keep your heart with all diligence...” (Proverbs 4:23). The word *modest* is certainly a warning against excess, but it is also a warning against the opposite extreme. A lack of dress, where the body is exposed as to excite improper passions in the opposite sex, is incongruous with what ought to be in the heart of a true child of God. This is corroborated by the words *shamefacedness* (a sense of shame and modesty) and *sobriety* (soundness of mind) in the same verse.

Six Marks Of Biblical Modesty

1. Modesty is not anti-fashion.
2. Modesty is about who you worship.
3. Modesty is about behavior and attitude, not just clothing.
4. Modesty shows sensitivity to sin.
5. Modesty involves cultural discretion.
6. Modesty is about true freedom, not oppression.

Taken together, these aspects of biblical modesty help to give us a working definition.

Modesty is a respectable manner of adorning one’s body and carrying oneself, born out of a freedom from a worldly definition of beauty and worth, and motivated by a hatred of sin and a desire to draw attention to God.

When it comes to the subject of modest clothing, the first question we should ask ourselves is: *What am I trying to accomplish by what I wear?*

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- c. Those with a sincere desire to dress modestly will: (i) study the scriptures (ii) discuss and study the subject with mature brethren (iii) Observe: look at the way people of the world dress, look at the way mature brethren dress, and then compare it with how you dress. You are likely to notice a difference. Indeed, there will be a definite, observable difference between the way Christians and unbelievers dress because of differing attitudes.

7. Worship.

- a. The obvious difference between Christians and unbelievers in regards to worship is this: Christians worship the true and living God (John 4:23-24; Philippians 3:3) and unbelievers do not worship God.
- b. But this doesn’t mean that unbelievers don’t worship anyone or anything? One of the most prevalent sins in our society is covetousness, and Paul says of covetousness: “which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5). Mark Dunagan says, “Covetousness is idolatry, because it naturally places something or someone in a place which is only to be occupied by God, i.e., the most important possession in life, a relationship with God.” Another thought: though people may not believe in and worship the Devil, does that mean he is not their master? All those who practice evil and wickedness do the will of their father, the devil (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8), and have been taken captive of him (2 Timothy 2:26).
- c. Even so, a child of God must see to it that he worships God *in spirit* and *in truth* (John 4:23-24; Philippians 3:3), and this means offering up spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5) that are in alignment with the reality revealed in Christ (Colossians 2:16-17); not sensual or according to the shadows of the old covenant (Hebrews 8:4-6; 10:1).

“Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother” (1 John 3:9-10).

Conclusion

1. Jesus said, “Let your *light* so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). As Christians, our *light* is the result of having heard and obeyed the gospel.
- a. We were spiritually dead, but now we have, through faith, been made alive:
- “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were **dead in trespasses**, made us **alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved)” (Ephesians 2:4-5).
- “Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has **made alive together with Him**, having forgiven you all trespasses” (Colossians 2:12-13).
- “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

b. We have been redeemed by the blood of Christ for a purpose:

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**” (Romans 6:4).

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).

“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, **to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach** in His sight” (Colossians 1:21-22).

“Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely**; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be **preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

c. Our responsibility in fulfilling this purpose:

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also **walk in the Spirit**” (Galatians 5:25).

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us **cast off the works of darkness**, and let us **put on the armor of light**. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (Romans 13:12-14).

“But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you **put off, concerning your former conduct**, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:20-24).

“But you, O man of God, flee these things and **pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness**” (1 Timothy 6:11).

“**Pursue peace with all people, and holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

2. One that has been born again and is pursuing all these things will certainly stand out from unbelievers and shine as a light in the world (**Philippians 2:15**).
3. None of us are perfect and we all fall short of what God would have us to be, and so let us seek to encourage and provoke one another unto love and good works.

“And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching” (**Hebrews 10:24-25 AMP**).