

MORE EVIL THAN UNGODLY PEOPLE?

By Keith Greer

What type of people are we to be as children of God? Does God give any instructions for His children about the character and attitude they display to those outside of Christ? Listen to God's expectations for those who wear His name:

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden ... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. " {Matthew 5: 13,14, 16}

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. "{Matthew 7: 12}

"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. "{Ephesians 5:1,2}

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, "{Philippians 2:4,5}

"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. "{Galatians 5:24}

"For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. "{1 Peter 3:17}

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. "{Galatians 6:9,10}

"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord'. Therefore If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21)

We could list a host of passages, but these will show God does expect us to be different from the world. Yet, can this be said of many who claim to be God's children today? Let me share some thoughts with you and then you can decide.

Today, the world has been brought into the church. The focus has been changed from spiritual to social things. What is the evidence?

Brethren are trying to uphold social drinking, gambling, dancing, immodest clothing, smoking and adultery. Think I'm off base? Sadly, this is very accurate. In my preaching, most of the complaints have come from brethren because I taught on these subjects!

Preachers, elders and teachers leaving wives and running off with another member's wife! No longer is the world able to see the clear difference between a Christian and one in the world.

Men no longer preaching the "old time gospel," but a more accommodating watered-down version. Preaching to what they want--not what they need! Is it any wonder more of our young people are being lost to the world?

" ... Seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel." {2 Kings 21: 9} Yes, the world may jump off the "deep end" of ungodliness but do we have to follow them? It happened once--could history be repeating itself? ***