

From the West Meadow
Pastor Wes Higgins

It was said of the early Christians that they “have turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). Today we see the world around us being turned upside down, but we as Christians aren’t the ones doing it.

Jesus said He was anointed “to preach the gospel to the poor...to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to those held captive by this world, to give recovery of sight to the blind and to set at liberty the oppressed.” (Luke 4:18) We are called Christian because we are supposedly followers of Christ. The example Jesus set wasn’t in mere words or platitudes, but in actions and deeds. Following Jesus is, as the book of Acts puts it, the Way. The way of life, the way of dealing with others...the way, as Paul wrote, of worshiping God (Acts 24:14). It was the Way that turned the world upside down.

When Paul said Christianity is a way to worship God, he was saying that how we deal with others, our actions and thoughts—everything we do—is worship. “In as much as you did it to the least of these...you did it to Me.” (Matthew 26:40) There is a saying, “Preach the gospel every day; when necessary use words”. As Christians, we are always setting an example for the world to see. Unfortunately, it is not always a good example.

Speaking of the world: the Lord says, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts”. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Too many times the world sees us bickering and arguing, often over “foolish and unlearned questions”, as Paul phrased it (2 Timothy 2:23-26), that “generate strife.” What the world needs to see is us following Christ’s example: feeding the poor in spirit, healing the brokenhearted, giving liberty to those this world holds in captivity and oppression; helping the blind to see, as much in the spiritual sense as in the physical.

The world is blowing apart at the seams. It needs people who will walk and talk the way of life that produces happiness and love. It needs to see the gospel of the Kingdom of God—the same as the gospel of Christ—which is “the power of God to salvation” (Romans 1:16). Salvation means life, both physical and spiritual. This world is dying; it needs those people who can bring it life. People willing to turn the world right side up—God’s side up. People to whom religion isn’t just going to church once a week, but people who are living the Way and teaching their families to live the Way. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life abundantly”; if that means turning the world around, so be it.

How are you at turning?

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