

taboo

A Biblical perspective on
things we don't talk about

Jesus Freaks (2 Corinthians 5:11, 13-17)

Taboo sermon series

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BIG IDEA: Living our lives for Jesus will make us look different from the world around us. It is then that we have the chance to make the biggest difference in the world around us.

Jesus freak: “n. Someone who displays an unusual or embarrassing amount of enthusiasm for Jesus.”

Followers of Jesus Christ will live, prioritize, speak, and act differently than the dominant culture. *We* are taboo. But that shouldn't surprise us, because the same was true of Jesus.

We are a new creation – the old has gone, the new has come.

(2 Corinthians 5:11, 13-17)

- We have been forgiven for our past sins. But we have also died to our old selves – we now live for Christ.
- We are not subject any more to the trappings of this world – we live under a different law and a different set of priorities. This makes us look radical in the midst of a society that encourages self-seeking behaviors.
- We will feel pressure to blend in, to not stand out.

Our biggest threat to authenticity is trying to fit Jesus into our comfortable lifestyle.

([2 Corinthians 6:1](#))

- As we learned in “Decluttering Christianity”, Jesus plus anything is less than Christianity. That’s because the “anything” detracts from our devotion to Christ.
- If we try to hang on to our life, we’ll lose it, but if we give up our lives for Jesus, we’ll find it – meaning, purpose, true comfort.

Radical faith is not radical in light of the proper presuppositions.

(2 Corinthians 5:15)

- If Christ has come, and has died, and has risen, and is coming again, then he deserves nothing short of full devotion.
- The world may interpret our devotion to Jesus as unusual or embarrassing. But anything less is not true worship.
- What is actually radical in the lives of Christians is the unredeemed parts of our lives that are indistinguishable from the rest of the world. Hypocrisy is saying we belong to the Kingdom of God while living by the standards of this world.

Expect spiritual opposition when you stand up to live your life for God.

([2 Corinthians 6:3-8](#))

- Our different life choices will make us taboo, and those who are countercultural always experience opposition. Not only this, but our Enemy will also oppose us.
- That does not mean that a Jesus freak stands for judgmentalism, arrogance, criticism. We are different because of love, not hate.

If you're a Christian, part of your life story is to share in the sufferings of Christ.

([2 Corinthians 1:4-5](#); [James 1:2-3](#); [1 John 2:15](#); [Romans 5:3-5](#))

- We need to learn how to embrace divine discomfort. This has two benefits: (1) it develops endurance and character, and (2) it enables us to comfort others.
- Rather than avoiding and walking away, we are called to meet others in their pain and suffering. We are able to help comfort them because God has met us in our suffering.
- If you are emotionally insulated from the pain of the world, you should ask yourself what comforts and priorities of the world are taking your attention.

God sends us as ambassadors to the world with a message of peace and reconciliation.

([2 Corinthians 5:18-21](#))

- What is radical in us? It is the radical, unconditional love of God, and our unwavering commitment to living as its ambassadors.
- The world is not accustomed to love like God's love, but every person on earth longs for it.
- We have received the deep, unconditional, renewing love of God. Why would we ever hide it or hoard it?

NEXT STEP:

- How does your life look different from others around you who don't follow Jesus? How does it look the same?
- If you are emotionally insulated from the pain of the world, what comforts and priorities of the world might be stealing your attention?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

- Read through 2 Corinthians 5 and 6 several times, noticing Paul's clear language about how Christians should look and live differently.
- Revisit the "Next Step" questions above, and pray that God would show you what changes He is asking you to make in order to follow Jesus more fully.