**Beside Ourselves for God**

*2 Corinthians 5:13*

**Introduction**

1. In the apostle Paul’s ministry he was often looked at as a crazy person.

* Acts 17:31-32 – He mentioned the resurrection of the dead. He was mocked.
* Acts 26:24-25 – He made his defense before Agrippa. Festus called him crazy.

1. The reason Paul lived in such a way that would elicit such remarks about him is that he lived to please God (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:13-15).
2. This is how the truth in the gospel is viewed to those who are perishing (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18).

* Those who are born again through the gospel are God’s “peculiar” people (cf. 1 Peter 2:9). Meaning we belong to God as His people/possession like no others do. We are different from the world.

1. Nobody wants to be weird or different, but if we are living for God we certainly will be viewed by some as being “beside ourselves.”
2. The world’s standard is different from God’s. Their expectations are not God’s. For this reason we will be seen as weird, crazy, peculiar, and different (cf. Romans 12:2).
3. The following are a few things that a Christian might do, or not do, that would be deemed crazy, different, or weird by the world.
4. Hold Fast the Pattern.
5. Congregational level (cf. 2 Timothy 1:13-14).

* Hebrews 8:4-5 – The concept of the pattern for the tabernacle is a shadow of things to come – the church with Christ as its head (cf. Exodus 26).
* Ephesians 5:22-24 – Just like the concept of submitting wives, a submitting church is not popular in the world.

1. Individual level (cf. Luke 8:15).

* Keep it – hold fast; cling; it is a commitment to abide by the word.
* Matthew 7:21-23 – These individuals heard the word, but did not keep it.
  + The world has a soft view of God. They view His grace as the false teachers Jude warned about (cf. Jude 4).

1. Reacting to Evil/Wrong Doing.
2. Evil in general (condemning sin/righteous judgment) (cf. Isaiah 5:20).

* 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – Calling out specific sins and noting the consequences.
* John 7:24 – We have the responsibility to make judgment.
  + This is judgment according to the pattern.

1. Evil against you personally (cf. Matthew 5:43-45).

* We are to love as God loves. *“God so loved the world”* (John 3:16).
  + The one who has had the most evil done to Him is God. Yet He still loves.

1. Sexual Standards.
2. Sexual purity.

* *“The will of God, your sanctification”* (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).
  + The world does whatever they want to. If they have a desire they act on it. Christians are not even supposed to think in that manner. When the world rejects our goal of sexual purity they reject God.
  + Vessel? (Wife or body?) – Body. Know how to control your own body (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20)
    - The world will say you are not a man if you are not promiscuous. God says you have self-control. Which is more mature?
* Modesty (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9-10).
  + The world thinks God is not concerned with our apparel. But God says our apparel reflects our heart.

1. Putting God First in Everything (cf. Luke 14:25-33).

* This is the radical Christianity that the world speaks of.
  + Those who would do anything for God, or give up anything for God, are portrayed as crazy villains in movies and tv shows.
  + We are expected to be radical Christians. This is the only way to please God and get to heaven.

**Conclusion**

1. If we are doing as Paul, and serving God to our utmost ability, we will be viewed as weird, and perhaps crazy by some individuals.
2. This should not be something we are embarrassed by, but something we value.
3. Jesus was rejected and He promised us the same (cf. John 15:18-20 – Talking to disciples, but applicable to us.)