

Different by God's Grace

My older brother went home to be with the Lord last fall. His name was Joel, and we worked heavy equipment construction together before I went into the ministry. Soft-spoken, gracious, hardworking, and most importantly he was a follow of Christ. One day one of the guys on our crew asked, "What is it about you guys? You are different." God had opened a door to share Jesus with a young man who was sleeping in his pickup, struggling through life, and seeking for something that the world could not offer. I am so thankful for the grace of God that reached down and saved us, and it was because of His work that a difference in living was noticed by a seeking soul.

God's Word calls us to "not be conformed to this world" (Romans 12:2a) and to live differently as a grace-filled response, in thankfulness to God for what He has done in saving us from our sin and giving us eternal life. God calls us "by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). Do we do this perfectly? No, but when we are connected to the One who lived a perfect life for us and died for us, we can live differently in a world that desperately needs a Savior. We are further reminded of this in I Corinthians 6:19–20, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." It's grace first, and living for Jesus that follows!

Praise God for the new life that we have in Christ! Praise God for the example of believers throughout the ages that cause people to see Jesus and say, "You're different." Let's pray that many doors for the Gospel will be opened by the power of God's Word and Spirit working through the lives of His people!

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