



### Post-modern? More like post-Christian.

A cursory reading of the Old Testament – in particular the Pentateuch (the first five books of Moses) – will show you how the Chosen People were meant to be set apart by God, to be different, and to be a light to the nations. They worshiped only *one* God, something seen as ridiculous by the ancient pagan followers. Or, look at their strict dietary laws in Leviticus. God’s people in the Old Covenant lived differently from the rest of the world.

The Christians, however, do not necessarily look different. In an ancient letter to Diognetus, the author starts off by saying, “Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language, or customs They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life... With regard to dress, food, and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to be living in.” In many ways, the Christians of then and now are ordinary people like everyone else around them.

But the letter continues. He says, “And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They live in their own countries as though were only passing through... They live in the flesh but are not governed by the flesh. They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. Obedient to the laws, they yet live on a level that transcends the law. Christians love all men, but all men persecute them.”

I think that life has come full circle for the Christian.

Now, I could go on and on with different ways Christians can live in this post-Christian world (I think we are beyond postmodern at this point: to study philosophy, to understand the natural law, etc. And those are important things, yes. But I think something that we Christians can do that doesn’t require extra study is simply to reclaim parts of our culture and hit the world where it hurts. I’m talking about living our lives like the letter quoted above. We can be ordinary citizens and partake of different customs in this world, but if it comes at odds with our faith, then we must choose.

What if we gave up shopping on Sundays, or cancelling subscriptions to things that promote filthy material, or not shopping at establishments that don’t have your best interest in mind as a Christian? This doesn’t require any extra training in philosophy or theology, and it’s something even your children can take part in and grow up with: learning how to reclaim our culture wherever we can. In a world dictated by the almighty dollar, perhaps we could be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” (Mt. 10:16)

I think you’ll realize, brothers and sisters, that after a period of time of practicing these things, the glitz and glamour of the world out there won’t seem as appealing as it once was. We’ll live in the world as if we’re passing through, simply on our journey to our home in heaven.