

Are You An Adjusted Person?

A word that is being over-used in modern society today is “*adjust*.”

Most thinking people who use the word “*adjust*” are referring to its social effects and point to the fact that almost all adjustment is made downwards, seeking to bring all people into harmony with the common and the mediocre.

This passion to be the same begins with the parent in the home, spreads to the schools and is propagated with zeal by the advertisers.

Advertising being the most powerful educational agent, those who write the advertising copy probably do more to determine the way the average person thinks than the centres of education and the churches combined.

There are two reasons for this power of advertising.

One – people may flee from the admonitions of parents and the good counsel of school and church, but **where can anyone hide from the influence of advertising in society today?**

Second – the advertisers exercise such incredibly powerful influence because they have learnt to perfection the art of communication. They may be lying and often are, but they do get their ideas across to the vast majority of people. This is more than can be said for schools and the churches.

A major problem with Christians is that they come to Jesus Christ with their minds already convinced on one point: that is, to stay sane they must remain adjusted to society.

This notion of being adjusted to society has been drilled into our minds from our life in a playpen, and it has never occurred to us that we should question this conforming to society, it was a norm that is above criticism.

We are taught that our success and happiness depend on how well we adjust our lives to society. We naturally consider that the influence of Christianity, thought it may add something to our lives, must never disagree with the main social norm if we are to be happy.

Yet this popular notion will *not* hold up under examination.

This norm to which we must adjust.

Where did it come from? [Revelation 12:9]

Where are its credentials? [John 8:44]

From where does it get its authority? [1 John 5:19]

Since society insists that I adjust to its beliefs, its moral standards and its practical working philosophies, it should be able to demonstrate that it knows where it is going, what it wants and why.

It also should be able to come up with multiple millions of happy people who by adjusting to its standards have found life to be supremely good.

Also, all nations that have had the benefit of such adjustment to the standards of society should be prosperous, peaceful, contented and happy!

These stipulations do not appear to me at all unreasonable considering how much depends upon the outcome of the zeal the world puts into the effort to get everyone properly adjusted.

Yet these simple tests show how phony the whole thing is. The world does **not** know where it is going, it has **not** found supremely good life for all people, it has **not** qualified as a model for all members of society to follow. Instead, society is puzzled, frightened and frustrated.

Generation after generation follow each other into an uncertain future, completely beaten, disappointed and sick at heart.

It was to this kind of society that Jesus Christ came, to save it from itself.

Jesus Christ died for the resulting sins of this society and now lives for the salvation of all who will repudiate it, deny the validity of its philosophies and put their trust wholly in Him as their Lord and the One they should be adjusting to, a new model after which to pattern their lives.

To adjust our lives by renouncing this society and choosing the new model of the life Jesus Christ lived at His first coming is the aspect of Christian life that most people do **not** like.

People want comfort of the promises made by Jesus Christ, the peace of mind that accepting His sacrifice as a substitute to our own deserved death, but recoil from this radical, revolutionary break with the world's society.

To follow Jesus Christ in this society is too much for them.

The true Christian, though they are in revolt against the efforts of society to brainwash them, is no mere rebel against society for rebellion's sake.

They dissent from society because they know that it **cannot** make good the promises it makes.

The true Christian has tasted the pleasures of society before their conversion and knows the bitter taste they leave.

They have found that the blessings that come from being a disciple of Jesus Christ can make them wise and full of joy that does not bring sorrow with it.

A true Christian is not left without a "norm" to which they seek to become adjusted. The Lord Jesus Christ is Himself the norm, the ideally perfect model.

Indeed the whole drive behind the true Christian life is the longing to be conformed to the "likeness" of Jesus Christ.

This is the very reason for our existence as human beings.

[Please download and study the article on the website with the title, 'God's Purpose For Every Human Being' listed under the main title 'Human Nature'. You will be eternally grateful you did.]

The apostle Paul expressed the burning desire every true Christian should have to conform with their Saviour Jesus Christ, in his letter to the Church in Philippi.

Philippians 3:7-14 [New King James] *"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold*

of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

The energy with which the believing person revolts against conformity to the image of the unconverted society will be the exact proportion to the intensity of their yearning to be like Jesus Christ.

This conversion can only be made by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives, Who will bring to us the very characteristics of the One Triune God.

Galatians 5:19-25 [New King James] *“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**”*

We will then be responding to the final prayer of Jesus Christ for His disciples when on earth, [John 17:9-26] and the only response we can have towards the grace extended to us by the Triune God through Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This involves every part of our life, and will open us up to being re-educated by the Holy Spirit, **[Romans 12:2]**.

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning the whole life, our physical body, mind and “*human spirit*,” **[Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11]**.