

The Way of the Few

I. Introduction

A. Jesus used the word “many” when speaking of those headed down the path that leads to destruction and “few” when speaking of those headed down the path that leads to life. In so doing, He showed that those who take the narrow path are *different* from the majority of people. Consider some things Scripture teaches related to this theme. **Matthew 7:13-14**

II. The “Non-conformity”

- A. The few headed down the narrow path of life are not conformed to the world. **Romans 12:2a**
- B. Being set apart from the world has long been a problem for God’s people (cf. **1 Sam. 8:20**). The temptation to try to please God while at the same time living like the world has often been yielded to. The Holy Spirit through James rebuked Christians who were guilty of such hypocrisy. **James 4:4**

III. The “Diagram”

A. If we want to be among the “few” of Matthew 7:14, we must not conform to the diagram of the world, but instead allow God to shape our thinking and transform us like clay in the Potter’s hands. **Romans 12:2b; 2 Corinthians 5:9**

IV. The “Strangeness”

A. The changes that result from allowing God to shape our thinking and behavior are *positive*. These changes are often viewed as “strange” though in the eyes of the “many” who choose a different path. The Christian’s motives, attitudes, and behaviors seem odd, just as Jesus seemed odd to many as He walked the earth. **Romans 12:1; Matthew 5:6; 1 Peter 4:3-4a**

V. The Response

A. Because of the “strangeness” of the narrow path and the hatred many have of the light, the world often speaks evil of the “few.” Such treatment mimics the mistreatment Jesus faced. **1 Peter 4:4b; John 15:18**

VI. The Influence

- A. Regardless of how the world treats us, when a Christian is different in a way God desires, he or she need not apologize or feel guilty for it. Instead, we can embrace such differences, given the joy of escaping the darkness and belonging to God, and the influence our lives can have on those in darkness. **Philippians 2:15**
- B. The “strange” path of faithfulness is nothing to be ashamed of or try to hide. While we must not do good works before others to glorify *self*, we shouldn’t be afraid to do good works before others in a way that brings glory to *God*. **Matthew 5:16; 2 Timothy 1:8**

VII. The Support System

- A. Regardless of how others respond to our influence, if we choose the path of faithfulness, we know we’ll be on the Lord’s side. **2 Timothy 4:16-17**
- B. Christians also provide support to one another as a part of God’s perfect design for His family. **Ephesians 2:19-21**

VIII. The Destination

A. The eternal destination of the “few” is reason enough to take the narrow path. Eternal life is worth whatever “strangeness” and mistreatment the Christian faces for choosing the way of righteousness. **Matthew 7:13-14**