

April 1999 Regular Christianity

by Aaron Greenway

In light of the upcoming Easter holiday, I raise the question in my own life, “Aaron, do you really love God, are you really passionate about the things of God, do you pursue God, or is life simply about being a ‘regular Christian?’” Many times, I have put my Bible down because I was so tired that I couldn’t keep my head up to read the page. Many times, I have disregarded my prayer time because I felt there were other things that were more important. At other times in the past, I had seen the wrong movies, engaged in worldly thought with actions following close behind. To my shame, I had sought after things that have broken the heart of God.

A heart that follows after Christ and longs for Him is very difficult to find. I have observed many brothers and sisters in the body of Christ throwing around theological terms and issues, but you would never hear them discuss their need for more of the things of God. Not very often will you catch anyone weeping with a brother over how he needs to give up certain things in his life or how he needs to be broken. The motto these days seems to be ‘grace’ and ‘liberty.’ When I see ‘grace’ and ‘liberty’ with no fire, passion, or conviction, then I tend to wonder just how pure and Biblical our grace and liberty really are.

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Fortunately, God has placed people in my life that do love the things of God, who are wild, nuts, bananas for Jesus. My best friend is one of the Godliest men I have ever known. I am constantly blown away by God’s TRUE grace in the life of someone who years ago hated God. His sister is no exception. She, as well, is a lover of God to the fullest extent. Up in Chicago is a brother in Christ who, for years, has encouraged me and sought God dilligently. And now going overseas is a brother (with his wife) who, years ago, was indirectly responsible for me coming to know Jesus. These people, though they are few, are living examples of God’s grace. They challenge me. They do not seek after riches or fame. Their hearts long for God. Their hearts are broken over lost souls, and will gladly lay down their lives for the sake of the gospel. When I

think of Hebrews 11 Christians, these are the people that I think of. To add to this, I am now meeting more brothers and sisters here in Dallas and in College Station who have the same devotion.

However, many of us are completely satisfied with being ‘regular Christians.’ We just want to be ‘regular Christians.’ We want Jesus just as long as He doesn’t get in the way. We still want our sin. We still want our violent movies, our dirty magazines, our meaningless conversations, our football games, our video games, our television, our egos, etc. God can fit in their some where, as long as one of the others aren’t forfeited. To be honest, many of us still want our ‘pet’ sin. We say we love Jesus but continue to hold onto things that break His heart. Like my friend has sarcastically said, “God-forbid we desire to be too holy.”

Passion for the things of God, and a yearning to be set apart is considered by many in our own camp to be ‘extreme.’ People who want to be these things are considered ‘extremists.’ Yet, the Bible says, “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

I don’t want to be a ‘regular Christian.’ The Lord is coming back. I don’t have time to be mediocre in any way. I don’t have time to have a worldly mindset because my citizenship is in heaven. I tend to wonder why we become so enamored by the things of this world when we aren’t going to be here much longer.

How many of us today are going to be ‘sold-out?’ How many of us are going to be ‘ape’ over Jesus? How many of us are going to pursue Godly passions and run from worldly ones? How many of us are going to stop making excuses?