We Are Counter Cultural

1 Corinthians 1v18-2v5

I INTRODUCTION

A) To be a Jesus follower is to be counter cultural. He both loved and challenged the World, while remaining an enigma to it. He was a true citizen (indeed the King) of heaven. As His followers, we have been called out of the World into His glorious light and our status has changed. We are sojourners and exiles; thinking and acting differently than the World because our framework and worldview are fundamentally different.

II A COUNTERCULTURAL GOD (1v18-25)

A) Contrasting the World's expectations for salvation with God's means of salvation

i) Jews ask for signs expecting a triumphant, glorious Saviour and to them the cross is an offensive stumbling block.

i) Greeks seek wisdom expecting salvation to be found in logic and philosophy. To them the cross is an object of scorn and ridicule.

ii) God chose to come as a human with the express purpose of dying a scandalous death on a cross as the means by which he would save those who believe.

B) Christ crucified is a stumbling block to the World (Gal. 5v11; Rom. 9v32-33; 1 Pet. 2v7; Ps. 118; Is. 8v14)

i) World hates Jesus' followers because it hated Jesus first (John 15v18; 1 John 3v13; 2 Cor. 2v15-16; 1 Pet. 2v20)

III A COUNTER CULTURAL PEOPLE (1v26-31)

A) The church is a counter cultural community

i) The World can't understand the Church

ii) It's open to any who bow the knee to Jesus (v28; Gal. 3v28; Eph. 2v14,19; 1 Cor. 12v13)

iii) Christian unity: in Christ (Eph. 2v14) and boasting in Jesus (Jer. 9v23-24; 2 Cor. 12v9; Eph. 2v9; Phil 3v4-8)

IV A COUNTER CULTURAL STRATEGY (2v1-5)

A) What most of us worry about when talking Jesus (2v1-4a)

B) What Paul worries about when talking Jesus (2v4b-5)

V CONCLUSION

A) "What will people think when they find that I'm a Jesus freak; what will people do when they find out it's true; I don't really care if they label me a Jesus freak; there ain't no disguising the truth".

– DC TALK

B) You've only got one life. Don't waste it trying to fit in with the World.