

# Extreme Christianity

## Romans 12:2

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*

## Matthew 5:38-48

*38 Ye hath heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if any man shall sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42 Give to him that ask of thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. 43 Ye hath heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy, 44 But I say unto you Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you: 45 That ye maybe the children of your father which is in heaven: for he maketh the sun to rise on evil and on the good, and sendeth the rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them*

*which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

## I Corinthians 9: 19-22

*19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. 20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 21 to them that are without law, as without law, (being not without the law of God, but under the law of Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some. 23 And this I do for the gospels sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.*

It's hard to believe that it has now been twenty years since the advent of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There were many who feared the end of the world. Y2K trauma was running rampant. Many people stock piled extra food. Some withdrew all of their cash thinking the banks were going to collapse. And, unfortunately, there were some who actually ended their lives following the misguided leadership of cultist. It is fair to say that the world was caught up in what things may or may not come. In fact we were so focused Y2K futuristic expectations and fears that we failed appreciate what was developing right under our noses; Generation X.

The X does not mean the (ex) generation, meaning the generation of children that society has just written off. No, Generation X is a generation of children that have been over exposed and over indulged. They have seen too much, heard too much, and been given too much. They have developed, in far too many cases an attitude of entitlement that has spawn unrealistic expectations of just who they really are. They are products of my generation, the "Baby Boomers" (children born after World War II). We pledged that our children would not experience the sacrifices that we did coming out of WWII. Nor would they be subjected to the social and political

upheavals resulting from the Vietnam War. The Baby Boomers promised a lot and delivered very little, but that's an argument for another time. Generation X has been raised on fast food, extremely explicit music, and the information super highway. Generation X has pushed the envelope further than social and moral tolerances would allow. All we have to do is look around us and we will see that the evidence is very clear. The toys that the children grew up playing with: video games that presented fighting and killing in such a way that it was a cool thing to do without showing what the real life consequences would be. Exposure to programs on TV, Cable and movies that show immorality in such an overwhelming preponderance as to convince them that it is totally acceptable behavior.

In short, Generation X is the generation of extremes. They can explain the difference between a gigabyte and a megabyte, they can get airborne just as easy on a mountain bike or a skate board and they are just as quick to resort to violence over something as simple as a pair of tennis shoes or a piece bubble gum, but ask them to explain the principles of the Golden Rule or their relationship with Christ and they are extremely quiet.

What will it take to reach Generation X? What can compete with the worldly extremes that they are constantly bombarded with? Extreme circumstances require extreme measures and so Generation X will require **Extreme Christianity**.

I know, the first question on your mind is what is the difference between Christianity as it has been traditionally taught and talked about versus **Extreme Christianity**? Well the former has been just that taught and talked about and the latter is actually applying what has been taught and talked about in our everyday living. **Extreme Christianity** means going above and beyond the call of duty to share the life of Christ and the impact of His life on our lives. It means to willingly make sacrifice after sacrifice, endure hardship after hardship and suffer for righteousness sake. That my brothers and sisters is **Extreme Christianity!**

The objective of this discourse today is to discover just what it takes to effectively exemplify the attributes of **Extreme Christianity**, which are Awareness, Attitude, and Actions.

First Awareness: *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may*

*prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.* Romans 12:2

Paul was well aware of how worldly influence can captivate, camouflage, and confuse. In other words get you all tied up, deceive your senses, and have your mind bogged down. Generation X is of the mindset that they must flirt with death in order to feel what it means to be alive. So many are driven to try every new drug that comes on the market just so they can get in touch with who they think they are. They are like rubber bands that have been stretched to the point that they have lost their elasticity. Their senses have been overloaded with so much of the world's garbage until they can no longer feel, sense, or think without going to extremes. Paul knew that it would require an extreme awareness brought on by a holy, spiritually mind altering experience to overcome the evil effects of this worldly influence. So, Paul prescribed a mind transformation by the spirit of God. This type of transformation will have the power to free Generation X or any other generation before or generation to come after Generation X from the world's influence and open up endless possibilities for true happiness, peace of mind, success in life. In other words rather than depend on worldly substances to

strive, Thrive by allowing Christ to be our influence, for it is in Him that we live and move and have our being! We can do all things through Christ that strengthens us! Now that is **Awareness; Extreme Christianity's Awareness!**

Once Awareness has dawned an **Attitude** must be formed. Who better to lay the foundation for the formation of this **Attitude** than the author and finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ. Listen as he show us how the right Attitude can release the power of **Extreme Christianity**. *38 Ye hath heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if any man shall sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.* Now there are those who would say that that **Attitude** is taking Christianity to the extreme!

*41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42 Give to him that ask of thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. 43Ye hath heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy, 44 But I say unto you Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray*

*for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you: 45 That ye maybe the children of your father which is in heaven: Wouldn't you say that that taking things to the extreme? for he maketh the sun to rise on evil and on the good, and sendeth the rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.* What Christ is teaching us is anyone can do what comes natural. To overcome one's natural instincts and display an attitude that rises above and goes beyond that which comes natural requires **Extreme Christianity!**

**Extreme Christianity** brings about an extreme **Awareness** which cultivates an extreme **Attitude** which results in extreme **Action**.

Paul makes it abundantly clear that he was an Extreme Christian and that it takes **Extreme Christianity** in order to save whosoever will. *19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. 20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the*

*law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 21 to them that are without law, as without law, (being not without the law of God, but under the law of Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some.* What Paul says in a nut shell is that we must by any means necessary, so long as it is in keeping the word of God, do what we can to try to save as many as we can. Extreme Christianity a Field of Dreams where “if you build it they will come” Instead, we are compelled to go! We are admonished to ask, seek, and knock! We are told that the hedges and the highways are fertile ground. Generation X will not come to us, we must take the gospel to them; wherever, whenever, and however we can. **Extreme Christianity** demands it!

Finally, though the **Awareness** my dawn, and the **Attitude** may be fixed, and the **Actions** deployed, for **Extreme Christianity** to be successful, there must be **Acceptance**. The word of God tell us in Isaiah 1:18 “*Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.* To Generation X and to all

generations though your conditions seem extremely disparate know that we serve an Extreme Savior who beckons us to come and talk about it. Things are not as bad as they seem. Whatever it is our heavenly Father can fix it. Clean it, or heal it. God is willing to go to the extremes just for you. Yes He will! Why, you ask? Because He already has. When we were sinking deep in sin our Extreme God went to the extreme by offering His only begotten Son to make the extreme sacrifice. Jesus accepted the cup of extreme humiliation, embraced the extreme weight of an old rugged cross, endured the extreme torture of nails and thorns, and allowed death a momentary folly in order to secure our extreme salvation (eternal life)! Is your Christianity **Extreme Christianity**? If not will you Accept Christ into your life and become an **Extreme Christian** today?