

BELTWAY PARK

Weird Better Than Normal January 8, 2012

Text: Matthew 7:13-14 (p. 961)

Normal isn't _____.

What is normal in our culture when it comes to time? What is normal when it comes to the pace of life? _____

What is normal in our culture when it comes to money?
_____.

Normal for most Americans is to feel like we are lugging extra weight around all the time, _____, tired and stressed.

What is normal in our society when it comes to _____?

We talk about “settling down” – often a reference to giving up the fun and excitement of the good life when we were not married. We talk about our spouse being our “ball and chain” – a reference to _____.

What's normal when it comes to sex? Normal is to do whatever floats your boat. If you have an itch, _____ it. If you have an _____, act on it.

Is there grace and forgiveness where we've failed, where we just “went with the flow” and did what everyone else seemed to be doing, where we did what was normal? _____.

But we don't have to live there. God wants us to have
_____.



God wants us to have _____ than normal.

Most of us have been conditioned by our culture (ultimately by the enemy) to believe that God is holding out on us, that God wants to _____ all the good, wonderful things of life.

Because of this, I think many of us find ourselves in a kind of _____. We want to believe in Jesus (and have the life He promises), but at the same time we want to be normal.

It is like we are trying to _____ between the normal of our culture and faith – and we find ourselves miserable because we are being constantly stretched in two mutually exclusive directions. (*Rm. 12:1-2*)

Weird people – those who really follow Jesus - _____ differently.

Weird people – those who really follow Jesus – seek to actually _____ differently.

Weird people – those who really follow Jesus – know they are pursuing the _____.

We will be pursuing God's will – His _____, _____ and _____ will.

Is God trying to keep something from us? Yes. God wants to keep us from normal. Normal, the broad path everyone is on, leads to destruction and ultimately death. Jesus came to _____ us from that. (*Jn. 10:10*)

If we want what normal people have, then let's do what normal people do. But, if we want what few people have, then let's do what few people do (by _____ what few people _____).

Note: *Weird* by Craig Groeschel inspired and encouraged many ideas for this series. I recommend the book to you.

