

Uncomfortable Christianity

We generally prefer comfort - seats, environments, situations, relationships

We expect comfortable physical circumstances

Those who would "rock the boat": often unappreciated

Religion is a source of comfort to many, no less true for Christianity!

People aspire for "comfortable" Christianity-- everything is peaceable and well, demands not hard to meet, if exist at all, everything is positive

Discomfort, difficulties, problems, and challenges are often unappreciated!

Yet Jesus did not die to provide a "comfortable" religion! - **Matthew 10:34**

Far from it-- Christianity ought to be rather uncomfortable!

What does this mean? How is it that Christianity is to be uncomfortable?

Comfort vs. Comfortable

Yet there is protest: does not God seek to comfort the disconsolate, the suffering, the dejected and discouraged? - **1Corinthians 1:3-7; 2Thessalonians 2:16-17**

Difference between God providing comfort & believers being comfortable!

The God who sought to comfort His people, - **Isaiah 40:1**

Also condemned "those at ease in Zion"! - **Amos 6:1**

When God's people are confronted with difficulties, they need the comfort of God. Yet this is no excuse or justification for Christians getting comfortable in their lives!

So what do we mean when we say we are to be uncomfortable?

Uncomfortable Christianity

There are many reasons that Christians should be "uncomfortable"

Discomfort with Sin - **Hebrews 12:1; Romans 3:23; 1John 1:8**

Yet we should never be "comfortable" with where we are at in terms of our striving against sin as long as sin exists in our lives! - **1John 2:1**

We must recognize that sin caused great suffering for Jesus **Romans 5:6-11**

1Peter 2:24

We must always be uncomfortable regarding our sin!

Discomfort with Fate of Others - **Matthew 28:18-20**

Are we comfortable with the reality that hundreds of people whom we know might be destined for hellfire - **2Thessalonians 1:6-9**

That should cause us mighty discomfort!

Discomfort with Knowledge - **2Peter 3:18**

It is easy to get comfortable with one's level of understanding, yet we need to challenge ourselves to grow, we always can learn more - **Matthew 11:29; 2Timothy 2:15**

We should always have discomfort with our level of knowledge!

Discomfort with Righteousness - **1Peter 2:24**

But we must constantly hunger and thirst for it - **Matthew 5:6**

We are to show love, mercy, and compassion; we must seek ways to show more love, mercy, and compassion - **1Thessalonians 4:1,9-10**

We must never get comfortable at all with where we are!

Discomfort with the World - **Philippians 3:20-21**

Yet it is easy to get settled and comfortable here! - **Hebrews 11:9-10, 14-16**

Can we really say the same? Are we uncomfortable with the sin around us? The death, violence, and mayhem? Does sexual sin and its consequences bother us? Are we at all disturbed by the idolatry and world-based? If we get too comfortable here, we will be as the world! **1John 2:15-17**

Discomfort Leading to Holiness

Does discomfort not lead to discouragement? That is not the intent!

Discomfort is to lead us to holiness-- to remind us our job is not yet done!

Our spiritual Sabbath awaits in Heaven; its not here yet - **Hebrews 4:9-11**

We work while we have time - **John 9:4**

Spiritually, we do not have the leisure of getting comfortable!

Discomfort is to lead us to reconsider ourselves, refocus, and keep going

Discomfort regarding sin is not to lead us into sin, but to encourage us to keep striving against sin
- **2Corinthians 7:9-10**

Discomfort with the fate of others is not to cause us to despair, but to provide fresh motivation to teach others the Gospel

Discomfort with our knowledge is not designed to squelch study, but instead to lead us to investigate more and study more

Discomfort with our righteousness is not to bring us down, but to lead us to greater righteousness

Discomfort with the world is not designed to isolate us, but to keep us yearning for that better place

Instead, it is comfort that often leads us into sin and error!

If we get comfortable regarding our sin, it is easier to slacken on our striving against it, and thus to sin again

If the fate of unbelievers does not bother us, we will not have the motivation to tell them the Gospel

If we think we know enough, and fail to study and learn more, we may even forget what we know
- **Matthew 13:12**

If we think our righteousness is sufficient, it may not be to God - **Revelation 3:2**

It is when we get comfortable with the world that we loosen our standards and conform to it -
Romans 12:1

Discomfort is not a bad thing!

Discomfort is rarely enjoyable, but it is necessary if we truly will be saved

Consider Laodicea and its comfort - **Revelation 3:14-19**

They were quite comfortable with themselves--rich, in need of nothing!

Yet to Jesus they were pitiable, blind, naked, and in need of everything

A sober warning for us!

Let us not fall into the trap of being comfortable-- let us strive for continued growth!

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