

dare to be different



what makes us **different?**

dare to be different



sometimes

we want to be different...

...sometimes

we **don't!**

dare to be different



so if I **dare** you to be different is it in a **good** way or a rather more **uncomfortable** way?

will you be **recognised** for your individuality and character **or** **singled-out** for being different?



a dare can be painfully embarrassing or at worst life threatening?

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you are a **daredevil!**

the supreme spirit of evil; Satan.

a subordinate evil spirit at enmity with God, and having power to afflict humans both with bodily disease and with spiritual corruption.

the true interpretation of the Greek and Hebrew translation in our Bible means *adversary*, someone or something in *opposition*.

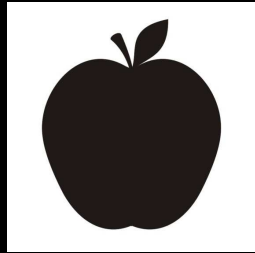
the opposing forces in the Bible are very simple:

God's Way **vs.** Man's Way / Good **vs.** evil or sin / Life **vs.** Death

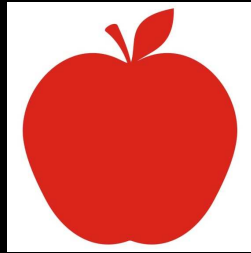
Genesis chapter 3 verses 1-7

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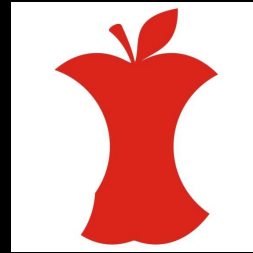
What were Adam and Eve doing near the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil ? Did the serpent make them sin?



they saw the fruit



they kept going back to look at it



and eventually they succumbed to temptation

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have you ever been on a diet?

“go on have a bit – you deserve it, you’ve been *so good!*”

Daniel chapter 1 verse 8-15

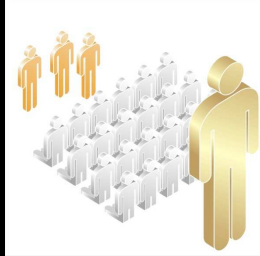
Daniel and his friends were risking their lives but they **dared to be different** for the sake of God. If they had accepted the food and wine what other things would they accept?



“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

Daniel chapter 3 verses 16-18

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So **standing out from the crowd** can be difficult, uncomfortable, even risky. But if you **dare to be different** to please God then you have nothing to fear...

...even if it means going in a totally different direction to everyone else around you!



Just have a look and see what it says in these Proverbs:

Proverbs 3 :5-6,23-24,26

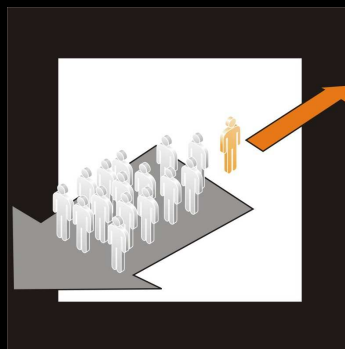
Proverbs 4 :14

Proverbs 16 : 25

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Proverbs referred to different paths. Trust in the Lord and he shall direct your paths...do not go down the path of the wicked, avoid it, turn from it...

Death



Life

If you stand looking at it and you see so many people going in one direction you can start think 'maybe it's not so bad after all'.

It's easy to follow the crowd...

..but what did Jesus say about this: **Matthew 7 verses 13-14**

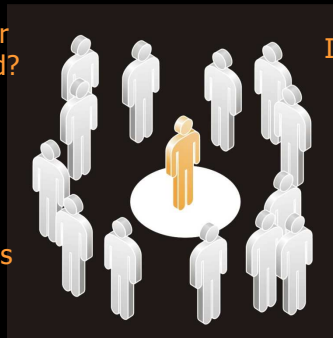
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Everyday we are confronted with **choices**, with **decisions**..
 unfortunately we meet lot's of people along the way who want to
 lead us in the **wrong direction!**

What's the matter
 with you – scared?

Go on, it won't
 hurt you!

Come on, just this
 once!



I can't believe you've not
 done that yet!

Just try it!

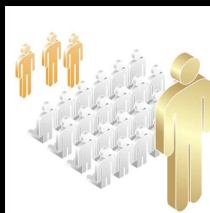
You really don't know
 what you're missing!

Just like the people who offer you cake when you're on a diet, they'll try
 and give you an appetite for the things they like to indulge in!

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".. we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles
 when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties,
 and abominable idolatries."

1 Peter chapter 4



If we spend our time thinking or doing things that are
 opposed to God then this is idolatry – we are worshipping
 other gods.

..in regard to these, they think it strange that you do not
 run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation and
 debauchery, speaking evil of *you*.

1 Peter chapter 4

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do
 not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor thieves,
 nor drunkards ...will inherit the kingdom of God.

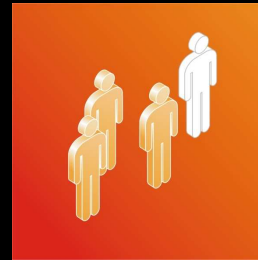
1 Corinthians 6

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So how do we **combat** this problem of living in a world that is largely opposed to the righteousness of God? It is a battle.

...be clear minded and self controlled so that you can pray.

1 Peter chapter 4



Remember what Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said to Nebuchadnezzar's threats..... 'our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king.'

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Adam and Eve were not walking with God when they succumbed to temptation.....

.....but Jesus always had God beside him and he overcame every temptation, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, in his victory over sin and death. He suffered for us because he had the courage to be different.

If we are going to win the battle we have to follow Jesus – he is the captain of our salvation. We must not lower our standards!

So if we want to be on the Lord's side let's raise our standard, let's stand out from the crowd.....



and dare to be different!