

Welcome to The Citadel Global Community Church where stars are born and great futures are created. Welcome to the home of consummate and conscientious nation builders whose hearts are open to the plans of the Holy Spirit, and in whose lives all things godly are possible because we choose to win by righteousness.

# APOSTOLIC PATTERN FOR LIVING IN A CROOKED WORLD

*...Standing apart, living right, and confronting the system*

*By Pastor "Tunde Bakare*

## Grace That Separates

In **Genesis 6:8–13**, the Bible says Noah found grace in the sight of God because he condemned his own generation by his lifestyle. In the New Testament, two foremost apostles gave us the pattern to live in a crooked world—how to be straight in a crooked world, how to be upright in a perverse generation, and how not just to make a difference, but to be totally different.

Noah did not merely survive his generation; he stood apart from it. His life became a verdict against the corruption around him. That same pattern of separation, without isolation, runs through the New Testament. It is not enough to exist in a generation; we must rise above it in character, conviction, and conduct.

## Peter, Paul, and the Blueprint of Apostolic Grace

If you study the Acts of the Apostles in detail, you will find

that there were two dominant apostles throughout the entire book. Although there were other apostles, even female apostles (**Romans 16:1–2, 7**), Peter and Paul were the dominant stars. **Galatians 2:6–10** gives us what I call an authentic summary of the dealings of God with these two foremost apostles.

From **Acts 1–12**, the dominant star was Peter. Then in chapter 13, as the teachers and prophets were praying, the Holy Spirit spoke expressly: *“Separate to me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”* After they prayed and fasted, they laid hands on them and sent them forth. From **Acts 13–28**, the dominant star was Paul. From these two apostles, I draw the blueprint of what I call the apostolic pattern for living in a crooked world so that you do not begin to think, “I wish I could get grace like Noah.” You are already saved by grace. You just need to know what to do to separate yourself from the perversity of

your generation and to stand shoulder high above it.

## The Cost and Calling of Godly Living

Let us begin the journey with Apostle Paul, as he wrote a private letter to his son in the faith (**2 Timothy 3:1–17**). If you want to be remembered long after you are gone, you had better write something that people will want to read, or do something that people will write about.

**1 Timothy 3:12** says, “Everyone who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” The reason you are not being persecuted is that you are not living godly. In **1 Peter 2:11–19**, Peter began to show us that we are not part of the system of this world, and that we are strangers and pilgrims. Our citizenship is in heaven. We are here as sojourners. The trumpet will sound someday, but before then, there is a way we must live. People can hate you with passion and despise you. But do not let them fault your good works or your lifestyle. Live honourably before them (**1 Peter 3:8–17**).

## Transformed People, Transformed Nations

When you make up your mind to

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## WHO WE ARE

“We are a people sent to the nations, governments and powers of the earth as the voice of reason, possibilities and hope. We are the instrumentality of catalysing change and centralising God in the governance of nations. Our mandate is to enforce the Kingdom of God over the kingdoms of this world that have become the Kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. We are men and women, boys and girls who love God and love people and who serve God and serve people. We always seek to give hope and to be at the forefront of driving change both spiritually and governmentally. We exist, primarily, as a fully functional church and conceptually as a governmental force for change, good governance and leadership.”

### THE CGCC CREDO

- Love God, Love People
- Serve God, Serve People
- \* By doing the above, we glorify God individually and corporately.

### OUR COMMITMENTS

- Wholehearted Worship of God
- Prayer → Ministry of the Word → Evangelism
- Seeing People Grow Deeper (Discipleship)
- Helping People Build Vital Relationships with Other Believers
- Loving God and Loving People
- Serving God and Serving People

### OUR CORE LEADERSHIP VALUES

- Compassion
- Intelligence
- Responsibility
- Judgement
- Influence



- ➔ Church-in-the-House
- ➔ Church-in-the-Community
- ➔ Church-in-the-City
- ➔ Church-in-the-Cloud.

- ➔ To grow up.
- ➔ To grow big.
- ➔ To grow very rich.
- ➔ To grow together.

live in line with Scripture and take quality decisions from which you will not yield to the emotions that battle your soul, you open the door for grace to come in, for Jesus to come in, for God the Father to come in, and for the angels to come and help you. Your life will compel others to want the God you have found.

If every Christian would live by the standard of the Bible, nation after nation would change. Only transformed people can bring transformation. It does not matter who mouths transformation; you cannot transform anything if you are not a transformer.

## Silencing Opposition Through Consistent Living

In **2 Timothy 3:8–10**, Paul said that just as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so also shall these resist the truth. But when Moses kept doing what he was doing, their foolishness was exposed to all men and their progress was hindered. They could not advance any further. Similarly, Peter said that if you live the way you ought to live, you will silence the ignorant men who are criticising you (**1 Peter 2:15**).

How do you silence your critics? When people begin to criticise or persecute you because you live by faith and stand for what they are envious of, because they do not have the power to live the quality of life you live, you may feel tempted to respond. You want to give them their own medicine, thinking they will leave you alone. But if you are tempted to respond, to defend yourself, or to prove that you are right, you have just played into their hands. They will criticise you louder and harder.

## The Pattern of Christ in the Face of Criticism

If you want to learn from the

Master, Jesus Christ the King, who was criticised by the religious men of His day and yet kept on living the life before them (**John 9**), you will see the pattern. Some said He was a Samaritan, and He had a devil. Others said He cast out devils by the prince of Beelzebub.

They even criticised Him for healing on the Sabbath and said He broke the law. They even complained that His disciples did not wash their hands. They looked for every small thing to criticise Him. But what was Jesus' response? He left them in their foolishness. And the Bible says He went on doing good (**Acts 10:38**). That was His answer to critics—He went about doing good.

When you keep on doing good, what is wrong and who is wrong will eventually leave you alone. But to descend to the level of your critics is to be distracted from your assignment. And remember: everyone who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (**2 Timothy 3:12**). There is no way around it.

## Five Kinds of People Who Will Criticise You

1. Those who hate you without a just cause—like Alexander the Coppersmith (**2 Timothy 4:14–15**).
2. Those who are envious of your accomplishments.
3. The timid and the cowards who believe your assignment is mission impossible.
4. Those who repay you with evil for the good you have done.
5. Those who believe they should be in your position—like Eliab, David's brother (**1 Samuel 17:28**).

These are the kinds of people who will criticise you. Do not descend to their level.

## Overcoming Evil Through Persistent Goodness

What do you do when men begin to criticise you? Just do as Jesus did—continue doing good (**2 Timothy 3:14, Acts 10:38**). Continue to practise what you have learnt, living by faith and trusting God.

The enemy wants you to back out and quit. The enemy wants you to be distracted, and that is why the criticism is coming. But when people repay you evil for the good you have done, pray for them. When they hate you without cause, do what the Lord said in **Matthew 5:43–48**. Stay focused on your assignment. Do not drop the ball. Trust God to make all things work together for your good (**Romans 8:28, Ephesians 1:11**).

## Standing Above the Noise

What is the conclusion of the matter? Let your critics gather. Let them speak. Let them publish what they want. Do not reply. Do not descend to their level (**Isaiah 8:9–10**). They may throw obstacles in your path, but underneath are the everlasting arms (**Psalms 37:37–40**). The pattern has already been given in **2 Timothy 3 and 1 Peter 2–3**. So, you have no excuse to join the mess around you. If you are not making an impact, nobody will criticise you. Separate yourself. Stand above the perversity of your generation. Let the grace of God shape your character until your life itself becomes the answer.