

## Dancing and Weeping

*“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’” Luke 7:31-32.*

In Jesus's illustration, the children of that generation called to passersby to partake in their dances and their weeping. They played the pipe and the hearers followed as children followed the Pied Piper. They sang and the audience wept. They told them jokes and the listeners laughed. Life lived as a game of Simon Says.

What Jesus pointed out is true today as well. The world shows us the advertisements and we buy the products. The world shows us adulthood and we grow into it. The world tells us what's normal and we adapt. Simon Says. Easy peasy.

Not only is this the way many behave, but when those who play the flute or sing the dirge are ignored, they're confused. They don't understand why we're not playing, too. They look at us as if to say, “Why aren't you being normal?” And just as children want to do nothing but play all the time, the children of this world want us to turn our lives into games. They want us to keep playing. They want us to play the House Game, where we have to go into debt in order to buy a home. They want us to play the Celebrity Game, where we have to spend money on movies and merchandise to raise normal people above everyone else. They want us to play the Academic Game, where we have to spend years of our lives learning the right knowledge and unlearning the bad knowledge. When we don't play these games, they're confused. Because they don't think we're being normal.

There's a hint of truth in all of this. While life isn't a game to be played, there is an amount of Simon Says involved. But we're not to play it with the world. We're to imitate Christ. What's normal to God stays the same. The world promises everything to us if we follow it. God has already given us everything and in return he asks us to follow Him. The world will never deliver on its promises. God already has delivered. The world will be confused by Christian behavior. But that's OK. If we adapt to the world, then the children of the world will never be able to see the abnormality of their behavior. The next time the world plays the flute, let's not dance, but rather ask them if they understand why they're playing the flute in the first place. **[DJR]**