

# In The World But Not Of The World

Intro: There is a separation between the Christian and the world. There is a vast separation between the two and their eternal destiny; Mat. 7:13-14 <sup>13</sup> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <sup>14</sup> Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” This separation is also seen in our fellowship; 2 Cor. 6:14-17 <sup>14</sup> Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup> And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>17</sup> Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,” Yet, even though there is that separation, we as Christians must live in the world.

## I. SOME HAVE TRIED SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD.

- A. In Judaism there was the Essene sect who separated themselves into separate communities.
- B. During the Christian age there were the monks and monasteries, Montanists, etc.
- C. Even today we have some separationist: Mennonites, Amish, etc.

## II. WE MUST NOT BE OF THE WORLD

### A. Christians are not of the world

1. Jam. 4:4 <sup>4</sup> Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
2. 1 John 2:15-17 <sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
3. 1 Pet. 2:11 <sup>11</sup> Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”

### B. Christians are different from the world.

1. Rom. 12:1-2 <sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
2. 1 Pet. 1:14 <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance;”

### C. Christians still are to be in the world.

## III. THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

### A. There were times when Jesus would resort to a place by himself or with His disciples.

1. Luke 5:16 <sup>16</sup> And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.”
2. Mark 4:34 <sup>34</sup> But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.”
3. John 11:54 <sup>54</sup> Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.”

### B. Yet, most of the time Jesus was out with the people.

1. Acts 10:38 <sup>38</sup> How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

2. Mat. 11:19 <sup>19</sup> The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.”

### C. Jesus instructed His disciples to be in the world

1. Luke 5:30 <sup>30</sup> But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?”
2. John 17:15 <sup>15</sup> I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.”

## IV. WE MUST BE IN THE WORLD

### A. To be the proper influence

1. Rom. 14:7 <sup>7</sup> For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”
2. Mat. 5:13-16 <sup>13</sup> Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. <sup>14</sup> Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
3. We become a leavening influence on society:
  - a. 10 righteous souls would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah; Gen. 18.
  - b. 276 were spared because of Paul; Acts 27:24 <sup>24</sup> Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.”
  - c. Consider America today; is it being spared because of those who are righteous?

### B. To do good works

1. Eph. 2:10 <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
2. Tit. 2:14 <sup>14</sup> Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
3. Dorcas is a good example: Acts 9:36, 39 <sup>36</sup> Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. <sup>37</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid *her* in an upper chamber. <sup>38</sup> And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring *him* that he would not delay to come to them. <sup>39</sup> Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.”
4. 1 Tim. 5:9-10 <sup>9</sup> Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, <sup>10</sup> Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints’ feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.”

### C. To convert others to Christ

1. The great commission:
  - a. Mat. 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
  - b. Mark 16:15-16 <sup>15</sup> And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
2. Acts 8:4 <sup>4</sup> Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”

### D. To prepare us for heaven.

1. Jam. 1:12 <sup>12</sup> Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

2. 1 Pet. 1:6-9 “<sup>6</sup> Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: <sup>7</sup>That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup>Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: <sup>9</sup>Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.”

**Conclusion:** Let us never become like the world as to our attitudes, actions, and speech; but let us realize that we must live in the world influencing them to do right and become New Testament Christians.