

Engaging the world

“I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. John 17:14,15

	SAINTLY SEPARATISTS Be different, be separate, avoid the world and worldly things. Don't be tainted by the world, build walls to stay away and protect. (Fortification)	GOSPEL GANGSTERS Engage through verbal conversations and at times political and social engagement... drop gospel bombs on people while still staying separate. (Proselytization)	RELATIONAL REGULATORS Those that engage, make friends with, befriend, live in the world (at times become like the world) and evangelize through friendship. Relevant, show off attractiveness, finding common ground, Building r/l bridges (vs. building walls) (Assimilation)
Positive parts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are supposed to be separate from the world! v.16 “they are not of the world just as I am not of the world” 2. Don't want to compromise - want to be close to God. 3. Willing to accept rejection and be hated 4. There are times and places where separation is extremely important...especially with new believers or being around people that cause struggle 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. they are willing to speak and stand up for the truth 2. they are willing to be identified with Jesus. 3. What to start a bible study, have a gospel conversation, invite to church (all good things) yet... 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize that God hasn't taken them out 2. Recognize that Jesus has purpose mission for all His children (we are the Light / city on the hill / the salt of the earth) 3. Often are sincere in wanting to love their neighbor.

Problem areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Miss Jesus saying “I do not ask that you take them out of the world” 2. self righteousness / spiritual pride reaks from a mile away 3. Don’t sincerely love and engage neighbors, co-workers as those created in God’s image. 4. Holiness more outward external view of holiness (wear, watch, eat, drink) not a holiness of the heart that’s near Jesus. 5. Can’t get back to the past / normal 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. like the Saintly separatists some are often stay clear from relational engagement 2. They make sharing the gospel as the goal (often without realizing it, they make people into projects) 3. They often share things that are unintelligible and unrelatable to those outside the faith. 4. Worst case is attaching the gospel message to political or social agenda as if Jesus is on one side. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Miss John 17:14 the world will hate you. James 4:4 friendship with the world is enmity with God 2. You can’t make it your goal to be relevant, accepted and liked and then seek to convert someone to Christ who says they will irrelevant, rejected and hated. 3. You are ministering out of lack and not an overflow of God’s love: Often we are making love and acceptance the goal (because our joy in Jesus is shot - see Psalm 51:11,12).
Pointers to Jesus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus was sent into the world - He’s sends us, with His Holy Spirit John 17: 15I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I have also sent them into the world. 2. Jesus was set apart - He sets us apart, with His Holy Spirit John 17: 17 <i>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.</i> 19For them I sanctify Myself, so that they too may be sanctified by the truth. 		

Discussion Questions

- Which of these three ways of engagement do you tend to lean?
- Which one of the problem areas do you struggle with the most?
- Who is someone who had a ‘Faithful presence’ in your life and how did that point you to Jesus?
- Who do you hope the Holy Spirit is calling you to be a Faithful Presence?
? Neighbors, co-workers and friends? What would that look like? Who should I invite to church / our community?