

## **They Are in the World but Not of It**

**John 17:11-19** “And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 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. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

**Revelation 1:5-6** “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

**1 Peter 1:22-23** “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.”

**1 Peter 2:9-10** “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

## **What Is the World?**

**1 John 2:15-16** says, “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.”

Yet **John 3:16** begins, “For God so loved the world. . . .”

## **So, God loves the world, but we are not supposed to? Why the apparent contradiction?**

- In the Bible, the term *world* can refer to the earth and physical universe (**Hebrews 1:2; John 13:1**), but it most often refers to the humanistic system that is at odds with God (**Matthew 18:7; John 15:19; 1 John 4:5**).



- When the Bible says that God loves the world, it is referring to the human beings who live here (1 John 4:9). And as His children, we are to love other people (Romans 13:8; 1 John 4:7; 1 Peter 1:22). The parable of the Good Samaritan makes it clear we cannot pick and choose whom to love (Luke 10:30-37).
- In 1 John 2:15 the world we are not to love is the sinful system. The system that is in rebellion against God.

How important is discernment in determining the world? If we are going to live victoriously it is imperative!

1 John 4:1-3 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."

Hebrews 5:11-14 "About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."

If we are ashamed of what the Bible calls sin then we are ashamed of the gospel.

- Lust of the flesh
- Lust of the eyes
- Boastful pride of life

The world entices Christians today through various means, such as media filled with sin, political pressures to conform, and societal norms that promote values contrary to biblical teachings. These influences can lead believers to compromise their faith and values, making it essential to remain vigilant and rooted in scripture.



### **Media Influence**

- Sinful Content: The media often promotes values contrary to biblical teachings, making it easy for Christians to compromise their beliefs.
- Entertainment Choices: Many Christians find themselves drawn to movies, music, and shows filled with themes of sin, which can negatively impact their spiritual health.

### **Political Pressure**

- Fear of Rejection: Christians may avoid speaking out on moral issues to avoid being labeled as intolerant or bigoted. This fear can lead to a series of compromises in their beliefs.
- Silence on Issues: Some Christians may choose not to vote or take a stand against unbiblical practices in society, which can dilute their influence and witness.

### **Personal Relationships**

- Holding Grudges: The world often encourages people to hold onto anger and resentment. Christians are called to forgive, but societal norms can make this difficult.
- Peer Pressure: The desire to fit in can lead Christians to adopt behaviors or attitudes that conflict with their faith.

### **Spiritual Warfare**

- Increased Temptation: After accepting Christ, many believers experience stronger temptations as they become targets for spiritual attacks. The enemy seeks to undermine their faith and lead them into sin.
- Distractions: The world offers numerous distractions that can pull Christians away from their spiritual commitments, making it harder to focus on their relationship with God.

**1 Peter 2:11-12** "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

**1 Peter 4:1-2** "Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God."

If Jesus said He was truth, then it stands to reason that He is our standard, He is the benchmark to gauge our worldview.

