

Christians are to STAY in the world

Right up to the last night, the disciples believed Jesus was going to set up his earthly kingdom or they'd go with him wherever he went. However, once Jesus dies, his work will be done but theirs will be just beginning. *Believers aren't taken out of the world but are left in the world to shine a light in the world* (Matt. 5:13-15; Eph. 5:8; Phil. 2:14-16). As the hands and heart of Jesus, offering spiritual life to a lost and dying world, a believer's reward isn't immediate but later. They are to trust God for strength and not give up when life is hard (Matt. 5:11, 12; Heb. 10:35, 36). *Christians are to work as hard as they can, wherever they can, for as long as they can.*

Christians are SEPARATED by the word

The disciples would both be blessed and bothered from God's word. Blessed because it's God's truth and bothered because it contradicts the world's values. Truth by nature divides and God's truth is divinely objective not humanly subjective. God's word both draws people and repels them. *God's truth just exposes the truth of the quality of heart that encounters it* (John 8:42, 43; 1 Cor. 2:14; 1 Thess. 2:13)! The disciples would be the way the world would come to know God as they wrote God's word. The *Law of Pneumagenesis* is the living word making spiritually dead people alive, and they go proclaim that life (Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 2:9, 10). *The Spirit of God uses the word of God to make people without God into children of God!*

Christians are to STRIVE for unity

Unity among his followers was of great importance to Jesus. Believers are in the same family of God, have the same Word of God to study, learn, and obey, and the same Spirit of God to help love and serve each another. There is no excuse for personal disunity as believers are to be as one as God is one—from plurality of Persons to unity of mission. *Be the help not the harm, be the glue not the sword* (Eph. 4:1-6)! The root of disunity is personal pride, arrogance, and unsubmitiveness. Anyone who promotes false doctrine or puts energy into disrupting the love of believers for one another is in rebellion against God and must either repent or be removed (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; Titus 3:10). *Believers are like God the most when they unify around God's love the best!*