

August 5, 2018  
IT'S A MAD, MAD WORLD - Part 1  
***"In the World, But Not Of It"***

So much of the world around us seems mad - as in angry - and mad - as in crazy!

**Romans 12:2** (ESV): "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Christians are called to be "in the world, but not of the world."

**Jesus:** "'<sup>18</sup>If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.'" (**John 15:18-19** ESV)

**Jesus and his followers are hated by the world around us because we draw attention to the ways it has veered from God's best.**

**Jesus:** "'<sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you [Father], and these things I speak in the world, that [my disciples] may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.'" (**John 17:13-18** ESV)

**Three Meanings For The Word "World":**

**1. The created world**

**Acts 17:24** (NLT): "'He is the God who made the world and everything in it...'"

**2. The people of the world**

**John 3:16** (ESV): "'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.'"

**3. The system of the world, headed by Satan and based on self, greed and pride**

**Jesus:** "'The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out.'" (**John 12:31** NLT)

**1 John 5:19** (ESV): "We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."

**Satan seeks to lure us into his kingdom of darkness rather than the Kingdom of God, and he does this through lies and deception.**

**Jesus:** "...[The devil] was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44 NLT)

**2 Corinthians 4:4** (NLT): "Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe...."

**Jesus came to defeat the lies of the devil and sin and invite us into the kingdom of God.**

**Mark 1:15** (NIV): "'The time has come,' [Jesus] said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!'"

**When we place our trust in Jesus Christ, his Spirit comes to live in us, whose infinite power overcomes the devil's, enabling us to see and live the truth, if we choose to obey.**

**1 John 4:4** (ESV): "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

**Philippians 3:20-21** (NIV): "<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

**Psalms 16:11** (NIV): "You [LORD] have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

**Three Different Ways Christians Relate To The World Around Us:**

1. Separate *from* the world.
2. Compromise *with* the world.
3. Be Christ's Ambassadors *in* the world.

**An ambassador represents another country in a foreign land, and while the ambassador interacts with the local culture, he's always committed to his home country.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-20** (ESV): "<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who

through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

**We can't hate the people of this world, for then we see them as the enemy, rather than those enslaved by the enemy.**

**Ephesians 6:12 (ESV):** “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

**Pleasure isn't bad, but it isn't our purpose - we're here to worship and serve God.**

**Jesus:** “<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>13</sup>You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:11-16 ESV)

**In a mad, mad world, how can we be “ambassadors” for Jesus Christ?**

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