

LEARNING TO SWIM

But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

John 17:13-20

SWIMMING IN CULTURE

- Called to go:
 - Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - Go into the world (John 17:15-18, Matthew 24:14, Romans 1:8)
- We are in the world, but not of the world.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Romans 12:2

"You must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds."
Ephesians 4:17

"Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."
James 4:4

"You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers." 1 Peter 1:18

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15

"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul." 1 Peter 2:11

SWIMMING WITH THE GOSPEL

- God's Word = Truth
- God's Word trains us, prepares us, and guides us.
- Satan's desire is to blind this culture to the results of the crucifixion and resurrection – not necessarily to prove that they did not happen – but to convince the world that they do not matter.

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

- Satan does not want the world to see the light of the Gospel. He does not want the world to see God's glory. It is okay for them to recognize the event, even verify it, as long as they do not see the light. (Ephesians 1:18, 2 Corinthians 3:16)
- The Gospel is more than just historical events; it includes a God given understanding of those events. (1 Corinthians 15:3, Galatians 1:11-12)

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:11-12

SWIMMING FOR SUCCESS

- Motivation - As believers we do not find our motivation in what we may receive, but in what we have already received.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10

- Measured Expectations – We hold fast to what we know to be true.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

- Relying on God – We trust in His sovereignty over us.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, Ephesians 3:20

- We engage our culture with:

- Truth (Mark 9:50)
- Respect (1 Peter 3:15)
- Grace (Colossians 4:6)
- Love (Philippians 1:15-16)

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:9

- Resting in God

*My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. **Psalm 62:1-2** He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. **Psalm 23:2-3***

Where is God asking you to swim today?

Where is God asking you to engage in the culture around you?

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