



## Of the Church or the World?

Straight out of the gate, you have to make up your mind where do you belong? I like to say that your life will not change if you do not know: *One*, Whose you are; *two*, who you are; and *three*, who is in you.

If you are paying attention, you will realize that the Church is becoming very complacent. The body of Christ (Church) is importing things of the world and the ways of the world.

I'm not one who will focus on beating the church or desires to have this the focus at *North*, but here and there as the Lord speaks and quickens certain things to me, **I WILL mention, counter deceptions of the world while I teach what the Word says**. My heart is not to condemn, but to instruct and as a shepherd feed and protect the flock from the world and deception by pointing them to the Word and the Lord, nothing more and nothingless.

Notice: We have accepted the way of the world as we ask and seek to be recognized and accepted. Lately, we are seeing the many possibly well-meaning Christians and believers that have become best buddies with the world where they are being influenced by the world. I do believe a Child of God should not have the child of the devil as their best friend. It is wrong on every front and every way. I will explain more in a minute, but let them say this right now:

Of course, we live in a fallen world, and **we must go to the lost (world)** as Jesus did and then said in the great commission. We do not live in a monastery. There is a balance to this, but we must be careful about it **lest we get influenced and sidetracked by the very ones we want to reach**. *1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

We need to ask ourselves this question; who is the affecting or influencing who, you—the believer or the unbeliever? If they are the ones influencing you and in the driver's seat, then you need to quit that association. It is doing you no good to destroy your faith to reach someone else. This must be done with wisdom. Again, if you as a believer aren't in the driver's seat of that relationship or friendship with that person of the world, it is not healthy—spiritually healthy for you.

The body of Christ seems to be suffering from what I call the “**attention and Validation syndrome**.” We want to be seen and recognized by anyone, especially the world, so we will mingle and do all with the world to achieve just that. Our gifted worship leaders are seeking the world’s validation and platform and, in this effort, compromise their values and beliefs before fame.

**Key text:** 1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Love not = Prohibition. It is prohibited to love the world.

The “world” not speaking about the earth but is speaking about a world system or way of life and thought process that is foreign to the scriptures and can be summarized in the three things in verse 16 below:

- a) the lust of the flesh, — Excessive and out-of-control desire to gratify the body's desires at the cost of morality = adultery, drugs, alcohol or food, pornography, prostitution, sex to play, abortion, same-sex nonsense, — all disregarding the word and will of God. Walking in the Spirit helps us not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:6; Romans 8:5)
- b) the lust of the eyes, temptation, theft, deception, lying, cheating, pleasure, pornography, and all nudity.
- c) the pride of life (power, control, manipulation, disregard for God, self-sufficiency, and dependency,

Please note that “lust” is not just speaking of a perverted sexual desire. The word lust speaks to more than just that. Jesus warned us about “lusts entering in, choke the Word and it becometh unfruitful (Mark 4:19).

The way of the world is using sin to entertain people. This is not the way of the Lord. The church is not hating evil, sin, and wickedness which is why we have accepted it. If you are seeking for pleasure, It is found in the presence of God (Psalm 16:11). We need to stop looking elsewhere for this when we can have it the godly way.

## What does the Word teach and what did Jesus teach?

- A. John 15:18-19 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.
- a) We are not of the world.
  - b) The world loves his own.
  - c) I have been chosen out of the world.
  - d) The world hates you. "Mubalabisa" (You expose them)

Many believers and ministers want to appease the world and the world to love them. If you are loved by the world, you are not inline with the above scripture. This is not to say we should be obnoxious, but rather not conform to the world, accept nor import their ways as our way of life.

- B. Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- a) Be not **conformed to this world**, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds.
  - b) One of the reasons that we the church are increasingly getting conformed to the world is because we do not have our minds renewed by the Word of God.
  - c) I would further argue we are un-disciplined. We aren't students of the Word. We feed off the world for instruction, direction, and so forth.
  - d) For many in the church, they look-up-to people who are the celebrities, such as those that **kick the ball, bounce the ball, throw the ball, and/or politicians**, and so forth.
    - i) They have movie stars or secular musicians as their idols and name their kids after them or their movies. It is insane.

- C. Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
- a) We have been spoiled and are continually being spoiled because of our pursuit of the rudiments of the world.
- D. Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- a) 1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;
  - b) We are pilgrims and strangers in the earth and world. Peter uses identity to appeal to believers to live godly lives.
- E. Romans 16:17-18 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.
- a) Now I beseech you,
    - i) Beseech means to call near, i.e. invite, invoke.
    - ii) This was a plea, not a commandment. But it is worth giving heed to because according to 1 Cori 15:33, evil communications corrupt good manners.
  - b) Brethren

This imploration was to the believers. This is to brothers in Christ.

- c) Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned;
  - i) "mark" means "to take aim at (spy), i.e. regard"
  - ii) "Divisions" means "disunion, i.e. dissension"
  - iii) "Offenses" comes from a Greek word SKANDALON where we get the English word scandal. It also "means a trap stick i.e. snare." (Strong's Concordance).

- Offenses are traps of the enemy.
- There are people who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which we have learned. They could be from within or without.

d) Avoid them

- i) "Avoid" means "Deviate i.e. Shun, decline."
- ii) These people were not serving God. They were causing divisions and offenses. It is very evident. This is the reason Paul was beseeching the brethren to mark them and deviate and shun them. They were serving their own bellies not God. This sets a precedent for most people who cause division and offenses. They are out for themselves. They are seeking to benefit for themselves. Division is rooted in self-centeredness and pride.

F. 2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 2Ti 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 2Ti 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 2Ti 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 2Ti 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

a) Paul said we should turn away from certain people. "From such turn away." From whom?

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| ○ false accusers             |   |
| ○ lovers of their own selves | ○ incontinent                                 |
| ○ covetous                   | ○ fierce                                      |
| ○ boasters                   | ○ despisers of those that are good            |
| ○ proud                      | ○ Traitors                                    |
| ○ blasphemers                | ○ Heady                                       |
| ○ disobedient to parents     | ○ Highminded                                  |
| ○ unthankful                 | ○ lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God |
| ○ unholy                     |   |
| ○ Without natural affection  |   |
| ○ Trucebreakers              |   |

G. 2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord

knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

H. The Temple of the Living God — 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

a) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:

i) "unequally yoked together" was translated from a Greek word HETEROZUGEO which means "to yoke up differently i.e. to associate discordantly" (Strong's Concordance).

ii) There is difficulty in operation, movement or productivity that arises from being unequally yoked. We as believers have to be aware about not associating ourselves with others unequally, not just in marriage but business, partnerships and so forth. This is not necessarily a marriage passage.

iii) "Unbelievers" was translated from a Greek word APISTOS which means "disbelieving, i.e. without Christian faith (specifically a heathen).

b) Paul gives the reason why we should not yoke up differently with the disbelieving or those without Christian faith. He said what fellowship (participation i.e. intercourse) hath righteousness with unrighteousness, what communion hath light with darkness? We are light and light has not fellowship with darkness in the same way righteousness has no fellowship with unrighteousness. This is a simple instruction yet very powerful. If we followed what this teaches, we could save ourselves from so many heartaches we encounter through disobedience.

c) come out from among them, and be ye separate,

i) Separate means "to set off by boundary i.e. limit, exclude appoint"

- ii) Contrary to what some people believe, there is room for separating ourselves from certain people and/or the world. **This is not only the right thing to do but also wise because we are protecting ourselves and our relationship with the Lord.** There is a place for doing this.

I recently taught on our radio program a two-part teaching titled, "What God hates". Today we had our, part one, and next week we will do part two. You want to listen to it. I believe it is very timely and will bless you.