

In the World or Of the World?

i. How am I different from the unbelieving world in which I live, how am I different from its values, its priorities, its system, its methods and its mindset.

ii. And...how does the difference I claim to have express itself in the way I live?

i. I spend my money somewhat differently, giving priority to God and His church and the needs of others. But I don't really live sacrificially.

1. If I really took seriously the call to care, I would sacrifice those luxuries for those who don't have the necessities of life.

ii. I spend my time somewhat differently from the rest of the world. I spend a lot of time at church if I am really honest, I would recognize how I spend other large chunks of my time. I spend them on me or my family. Not that it is bad, but it is the way that most other people in the world spend their time. They value their family and their own time. How is the way I spend my time really different from theirs?

1. If I really took seriously the call to care, I would be more open to spending more of my time in prayer for others, and in spending time with those who are shut-ins, and with those who don't know Christ.

iii. I spend my talents differently from the world. I don't spend them enriching or advancing myself. I believe that I try to use my abilities for God's glory. Or so it would seem to someone looking at me from the outside looking in. Truth is, I waste a lot of my ability and talent and neglect opportunities to use them for advancing the kingdom of God.

1. If I really took seriously the call to use my talents for God, I would look for opportunities to use them in new ways rather than in ways that I feel safe and comfortable using them.

2. Scripture this morning relates to this subject and to making an evaluation of how you are different:

a. John 17:11-, 14-19 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. ...verse14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16 "They are not of the world, even 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, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

i. Last major prayer of Jesus before His crucifixion.

ii. He prays for the church who remains in the world.

d. One common term and theme that Jesus uses is "the world."

3. What is the world?

a. The world is a system of beliefs, values and knowledge that is organized in active hostility and rebellion against God.

I Cor 3:19 this world and

iii. A list won't suffice b/c I'll miss something. The Holy Spirit must be your arbiter of what is worldly and what is not.

4. Worldliness and the Christian:

a. The Bible says that we are not to love the world, neither the things that are in the world.

i. What does the Bible mean when it talks about worldliness?

ii. What do we mean the I Cor 2: 6-13 spirit of this world.

c. We're also told that this world is corrupt.

iii. I believe worldliness is perhaps the greatest problem that plagues the church today. Why?

1. It ruins our effectiveness for the Lord.

2. And it robs us of spiritual power.

3. Perhaps you recall the parable of the sower? The seeds that were sown among the thorns that grew up were choked off by what Jesus called the "cares of life" and He noted that they kept the believer from bearing fruit.

5. What is the difference between in the world and being of the world?

a. Jesus prays that we will be kept in the midst of the world.

i. This is very important.

1. When Jesus sent his disciples out to preach, He told them, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves," {Matt 10:16}.

b. Being "of the world" means to adopt the world's values and to love the things, rewards and pursuits that this life offers more than God.: WE cannot love God and this world or this life!

ii. There is one kind of love that God hates. Do you know what it is? The love of the world.

iii. 1 John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. 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. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever"

Joshua 24: For Me and my house we will serve the Lord