

HEALTHY CHURCH -- SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD

Sunday, May 22, 2022 -- HEALTHY CHURCH series -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

2 CORINTHIANS 6:16-18

English Standard Version (ESV)

16 *What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,*

*“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.*

17 *Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;*

*then I will welcome you,
18 and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”*

REVIEW from Last Two Weeks--

- **HEALTHY CHURCH: MOVING TOWARD MATURITY**

Churches and Church Members mature as they grow up and serve the Lord.

Many Christians are not maturing because they do not actively serve.

(They need to stop wondering ‘What’s wrong?’ and begin serving others.)

Many churches are not mature because their members do not serve.

- **HEALTHY CHURCH: ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER**

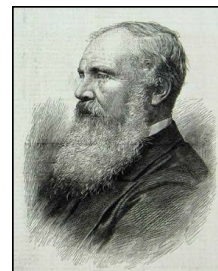
Hebrews 10:24-25 reveals that Christians help each other stay with Christ through the encouragement that comes from worshipping God and fellowshipping together.

Your _____ and participation is IMPORTANT to everyone.

‘THE WORLD’ --

by J.C. RYLE

Anglican minister for 40 years
Liverpool, England (1816-1900)



- **2 Corinthians 6:16-18** (above)

-- **CONTEXT:** Believers are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers. vs 14-18

-- **WHY?** The wider-context is that God’s people are radically different than the rest of the world. They have a fundamentally different identity.

-- **Notice:** God’s covenant promises to Israel are applied to the _____.
2 Sam. 7:14 “I will be a father to you” Isaiah 43:6 “sons and daughters”

-- **The church** is the fulfillment of God’s covenant people, being restored under ‘the _____ covenant’ of Christ’s blood.

-- So this reveals the radically different _____ of God’s true people.

1) The WORLD is a source of _____.

- Not the material world. The creation is all 'very good' (Gen. 1:31).
- **"The world"** refers to those who think of this world's things and not the world to come.
 - they think more about earth than of heaven,
 - they think more about time than of eternity,
 - they think more about the body than the soul,
 - they think more about pleasing man than pleasing God.
- Christians are to renounce 3 things: the _____, the _____ and the _____.

2) The BIBLE has much to say about the world.

- **Notice what PAUL says:**

ROMANS 12:2

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.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:12

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

GALATIANS 1:4

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

EPHESIANS 2:2

in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

2 TIMOTHY 4:9-11

Make every effort to come to me quickly, because Demas, in his love of this world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me.

- **Notice what JAMES says:**

JAMES 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

JAMES 4:4

*You adulterous people! 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.*

- **Notice what JOHN says:**

1 JOHN 2:15-17

*15 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. 16 For all that is in the **world**—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the **world**. 17 And the **world** is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

- **Notice what JOHN says:** (continued)

1 JOHN 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him

1 JOHN 4:4-6 (John speaks of the antichrist spirit of the world)

*4 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**. 5 They are from the **world**; therefore they speak from the world, and the **world** listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

1 JOHN 5:4

*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the **world**—our faith.*

1 JOHN 5:19

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

- **Notice what JESUS says:**

MATTHEW 13:22 (Jesus explains the parable of the 4 soils)

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

JOHN 8:23

*He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this **world**; I am not of this **world**."*

JOHN 14:17

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the **world** cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.*

JOHN 15:18-19

*If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 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 16:33

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the **world** you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the **world**."*

JOHN 17:14-18 (Jesus prays to the Father for all those who follow Him)

*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**.*

WHAT DO YOU SEE FROM THESE PASSAGES?

- The World is the enemy of the Christian's soul.
- Those who are not at _____ with the world cannot be at _____ with Christ.

3) WHAT IS GODLY SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD?

- Christ as our _____... He was in the world but not of the world.
(John 17:14-18)
- Christ as our _____ -- though we WERE of the world, Christ RESCUED us from it!

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

A) Anyone who desires to come out of world and be separate must steadily and habitually refuse to be guided by the world's standards of right and wrong.

- That which is popular should be _____.
- Does it pass the smell test of God's Word?
- Remember, nothing is right that God says is wrong!
- Remember, nothing is 'no big deal' that God says is a big deal.
- The world's trivialization of sin should not go _____.
- The world's twisting of morality should be _____ and _____.

ISAIAH 5:20

*Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!*

B) Anyone who desires to come out of the world and be separate must be very careful how he/her spends his/her _____.

- This is a very big issue for the Christian's life.
- Leisure time, 'personal time', down time, time off, retirement are all huge in our society.
- Honorable work and honest business is a great safe guard against sin.
- Hard work time is much safer than leisure time. Watch out!
- How a Christian spends his/her _____ is big deal.
 - TV, smart phone, 'going out' can impede or destroy your godliness!
 - Scripture reading, prayer, hospitality, life in community brings great godliness.

C) Anyone who desires to come out of the world and be separate must determine not to be swallowed up and absorbed in the _____ of the world.

- A true Christian should work in an excellent manner. (Colossians 3:23)
- A true Christian should not allow work to get between him/her and Christ.

D) Anyone who desires to come out of the world and be separate must abstain from all amusements and recreations that either inseparably linked to or dominated by _____.

- Are sinful, godless themes the _____ of your entertainment?
(sexual intrigue, infidelity, violence, murder, crime, lust of the world, greed, fame)
- Are sinful, godless themes the _____ of your entertainment?

E) Anyone who desires to come out of the world and be separate be moderate in the pursuit of interests, hobbies, and recreations.

- Sports, exercise, collections, art, adventure, travel, creation, play all have their place.
- *Is your recreation simply out of balance? Are you _____ with it?*
- *Does it take priority over serving Christ's eternal kingdom or distract from Him?*

F) Anyone who desires to come out of the world and be separate must be careful in how he/she allows friendships, partnerships, and close relationships with people who do not serve Christ.

- God's Word gives lots of _____ about this. (You shouldn't).
- God's Word gives some _____ about this. (You mustn't).
 - In business.
 - In endeavors.
 - In marriage.

I CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

*"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.*

*17 Therefore go out from their midst,
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QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

- 1) WHERE ARE YOU WITH _____? WHERE ARE YOU WITH _____?**
- 2) HAS THE WORLD _____ OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE?**
- 3) HAVE YOU MADE PARTERNSHIPS WITH THE WORLD? Seek _____!**