

In the World, But Not of the World

- I. As Christians we have to live *in* this world.
 1. We cannot entirely avoid the people of this world (**1Co 5:9-10**).
 2. Jesus and His disciples lived in the world (**Joh 17:11**).
 3. God wants us to be in this world for a time to be the salt and light of it (**Joh 17:15 c/w Mat 5:13-16**).
 4. We can *use* this world, but not *abuse* it (**1Co 7:31**).
 5. Abuse *v.* - 1. To disuse, give up. *Obs.* 2. a. To use improperly, to misuse; to make a bad use of, to pervert, or misemploy; to take a bad advantage of
- II. But we should not be *of* this world.
 1. Of *prep* - XIV. In the sense belonging or pertaining to; expressing possession and its converse: 'the owner of the house', 'the house of the owner'. 47. a. Belonging to a place, as a native or resident. 1382 Wyclif Matt. xii. 41 Men of Nynyue shall ryse in dome with this generacioun.
 2. World *n.* - 1. a. Chiefly *this world, the world*: the earthly state of human existence; this present life. 2. The pursuits and interests of this present life; *esp.*, in religious use, the least worthy of these; temporal or mundane affairs. *world's* = worldly. 4. a. Secular (or lay) life and interests, as distinguished from religious (or clerical); also (by association with III, as in b and d below), secular (or lay) people. *of the world, world's*: secular; d. In biblical and religious use: Those who are concerned only with the interests and pleasures of this life or with temporal or mundane things; the worldly and irreligious.
 3. Though we are *in* the world, we must not be *of* the world (**Joh 17:14,16; Joh 15:18-19**).
 4. We are *of* God.
 - A. We are born of God (**Joh 1:12-13**).
 - B. We are of God and the whole world lieth in wickedness (**1Jo 5:19**).
 5. The people of this world are *of* the devil, the prince of this world (**Joh 14:30**).
 - A. They are of the devil by imitation because they do the works of the devil (**Joh 8:41,44**).
 - B. They are from beneath; they are of this world (**Joh 8:23**).
 6. We must not be conformed to this world (**Rom 12:2**).
 - A. Conform *v.* - 1. *trans.* To form, shape, or fashion according to some pattern, model, or instruction; to make of the same form or character, to make like.
 - B. We are therefore not to pattern our thoughts and behavior after the way of this world.
 - C. We should not look, act, and think like the people of this world.
 7. Being *in* the world does not necessarily equate to being *of* the world.
 - A. A weak man can be somewhat *in* the world and yet be *of* it.
 - B. A strong man can deeply be *in* the world and yet not be *of* it.
 - C. The more a man gets involved *in* this world, the greater the likelihood that he will be *of* this world.
 8. Lot was an example of a man who was *in* this world too deeply and became *of* this world as a result (**Gen 13:8-13 c/w 2Pe 2:7-8**).
- III. How should we live *in* this world and yet not be *of* it?
 1. The workplace
 - A. The company has become the new family and church.

- i. It is the place where people find meaning for their lives.
 - ii. It is the place where people find their identity.
 - iii. It is the place where people participate in "charitable" activity.
 - iv. It is the place where people find friends.
- B. The workplace is becoming increasingly hostile towards Christians.
- C. Large companies are now far more concerned with political correctness than with making money.
 - i. What do you do when it's company policy to hire and celebrate LGBTQFW people?
 - ii. What do you do when your company panders to the feminist agenda?
- D. There is a time to keep silent and time to speak (**Ecc 3:7**).
 - i. When to keep silent.
 - a. A wise man spares his words (**Pro 17:27-28**).
 - b. A fool says everything he thinks, but a wise man keeps it in until he gets home (**Pro 29:11**).
 - c. Don't cast your pearls before swine, else they will rend you (**Mat 7:6**).
 - (i) If ungodly coworkers are having an ungodly conversation in your presence, but are not asking you questions or talking directly to you, then keep silent.
 - (ii) Leave the conversation if you can.
 - d. Rebuke not a scolder, else you will get a blot (**Pro 9:7-8; Pro 23:9**).
 - (i) If a coworker has shown himself to be a fool, then don't bother rebuking him.
 - (ii) Doing so will only cause you trouble.
 - e. When living in an evil time, the prudent will keep silent (**Amo 5:12-13; Mic 7:5-7; Jer 9:3-6**).
 - (i) Don't make yourself a target if you don't have to.
 - (ii) Martyrdom is not the goal.
 - f. When the wicked rise, wise men hide themselves (**Pro 28:28**).
 - g. If speaking up *when you don't have to* will cause you to lose your job, then foresee the evil and hide yourself (**Pro 27:12**).
 - ii. When to speak.
 - a. If you are asked a direct question about what you think about something (sodomites, transgender, abortion, etc.), then you must answer truthfully.
 - (i) Fear not men (**Psa 56:3-4; Mat 10:28**).
 - (ii) Trust in the LORD when you answer and you will be made safe (**Pro 29:25**).
 - (iii) Remember, a soft answer turns away wrath (**Pro 15:1**).
 - (iv) Explain to them that God says these things are sinful and you must obey God rather than men (**Act 4:19-20; Act 5:29**).
 - b. If you are asked about your faith by a coworker, tell him.
 - (i) Don't put your candle under a bushel (**Mat 5:14-16**).
 - (ii) If you are ashamed of Jesus, He will be ashamed of you (**Mat 10:32-33**).

- c. If your silence implies your consent to evil, you must speak up.
 - d. If you perceive that a coworker is a sincere seeker of truth, then tell them the truth when you have opportunity.
 - iii. Don't compromise, but don't make yourself a target unnecessarily either.
 - a. If you are asked to do or say something that is wrong, you must not do it.
 - b. Follow Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's example of humbly, but firmly, refusing to comply (**Dan 3:16-18**).
 - c. If you are asked a direct question about your beliefs, then answer it truthfully and don't worry about the consequences.
 - d. Adopt Esther's attitude: "if I perish, I perish" (**Est 4:16**).
 - e. If you can remain silent during a conversation at work and stay out of a controversy, then do so.
 - f. Remember, when you are at work you are being paid to work, not talk about non-work related things.
 - E. Get in a financial position where you can afford to quit your job if you need to.
 - i. This requires paying off debt and saving money, which is what a wise man does (**Pro 21:20**).
 - ii. This will also greatly increase your inner peace and wellbeing.
 - F. If your company is run by reprobates, find a small company to work for that shares your values.
 - G. Forget the idea that your coworkers are your family.
 - i. Compartmentalize work and coworkers and don't become friends with ungodly coworkers outside of work.
 - ii. View your job as business, not as your life.
 - H. Learn to not care about what people think of you.
 - i. Learn to love to be hated and despised for your faith (**Mat 5:10-12; Luk 6:22-23; 1Pe 4:14,16**).
 - ii. If the ungodly sing your praises, you better evaluate your life (**Luk 6:26**).
 - iii. This applies to all areas of our lives.
- 2. Family
 - A. Interacting with worldly family members can make it difficult to not be of this world.
 - B. Family must take a backseat to Jesus Christ and His interests (**Mat 10:34-37**).
 - C. Ungodly family members should not be given priority in our lives.
 - i. The Levites chose God over family (**Exo 32:25-28 c/w Deu 33:8-9**).
 - ii. King Asa destroyed his parents' religion and removed his idolatrous mother from the throne (**1Ki 15:11-13**).
 - D. If they can't respect your beliefs and behave themselves around you, then avoid spending time with them.
 - E. Blood should not run thicker than water for a Christian.
- 3. Friends
 - A. Ditch ungodly friends.
 - i. They will destroy you and corrupt you (**Pro 13:20; 1Co 15:33**).
 - ii. Forget the worldly people of your past (**Php 3:13**).

- iii. Don't run around with them, and don't care when they speak evil of you for it **(1Pe 4:3-4)**.
 - iv. Count them but dung **(Php 3:8)**.
 - v. If they don't respect your beliefs and religion, they don't deserve to be your friends.
 - vi. If you can't be yourself around them, they don't deserve to be your friends.
 - vii. If being yourself around them means acting like them and never mentioning your beliefs or religion, you need to evaluate your life.
 - viii. Do your friends know that you're a Christian?
 - ix. Do your friends know what your beliefs are?
 - x. They should.
- B. Make friends with people in the church and spend time with them **(Psa 119:63; Mal 3:16)**.
- C. Your church and your religion should not be an bubble that is isolated from the rest of your life.
- i. Your church should be your life.
 - ii. If anything, your workplace should be the bubble that is isolated from the rest of your life.