

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 2-3-13 AM NOTES
"THE REAL LORD'S PRAYER" (PART 5)
JOHN 17:14-19
#70 in Series, "Verse-by-Verse Through John"

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB) "in whose case **the god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

I. The Disciples of Christ and the World (vv. 14-16)

A. Disciples of Christ Have Direction in the World (v. 14a)

Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV) "in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience."

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

B. Disciples of Christ Will Be Rejected by the World (v. 14b)

John 8:23 (NKJV) "And He said to them, 'You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.'"

1 Corinthians 4:13b (NIV) "Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world."

"Jesus rocked the boat; He refused to conform. The world could not pour Him into its mold. He was too good, too clever, too brave, too honest, too different. So the world murdered Him. Now it reaches out its bloodstained hand to us. We are expected to shake hands with the world over the blood of Jesus. But we are not of the world, just as He was not of the world."

—John Phillips

C. Disciples of Christ Are Kept by the Father in the World (v. 15)

D. Disciples of Christ Are Different From the World (v. 16)

1. Christians have a different standing than those in the world.

2. Christians possess a different nature from those in the world.

3. Christians serve a different Master from those in the world.

John 8:44a (NKJV) "You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do."

4. Christians have a different aim from those in the world.

5. Christians have a different citizenship than those in the world.
6. Christians live a different life than those in the world.
7. Christians have a different destiny than those in the world.

“Put your finger on any prosperous page in the church’s history, and I will find a little marginal note reading thus: ‘In this age men could readily see where the church began and where the world ended.’ Never were there good times when the church and the world were joined in marriage. The more the church is different from the world in her acts and in her maxims, the more true is her testimony for Christ and the more potent is her witness against sin.”

—Charles Spurgeon

II. The Disciples of Christ and the Word (vv. 17-19)

1 Corinthians 1:2a (NKJV) “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be saints*...”

A. The Word Is the Means of the Disciples’ Sanctification (v. 17)

Psalms 31:5b (NKJV) “...You have redeemed me, O Lord **God of truth**.”

John 14:6 (NKJV) “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

John 14:17a (NKJV) “the **Spirit of truth**...”

B. The Word Gives the Disciples Their Mission in the World (v. 18)

Luke 19:10 (NKJV) “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Ephesians 1:6b (NKJV) “...He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”

1 John 4:17b (NKJV) “...as He is, so are we in this world.”

C. The Word Shows the Disciples Their Model in the World (v. 19)

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In John 17:14-19, the word “world” is used eight times! We’ve been over this many times before, but we need to be reminded often of the meaning of the word “world” when it is used in the negative sense as it is in this passage. “World” doesn’t refer to a place in this context. It is a system of values and

worldviews that leave out God and His Word. This world value system that leaves God and His word out is not just something that naturally evolves. This world has someone in charge that is setting the values and influencing the worldviews. **2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB)** “in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” In the context, “the god of this world” is obviously referring to Satan. He is the one behind the scenes pushing and molding the values and the worldviews that control the world system. In John 12:31; 14:30 and 16:11, Satan is called “the ruler of this world” The world views mankind and their comfort and pleasure as the center of all things; truth is seen as relative and subjective and individualistic. The world doesn’t necessarily deny the existence of God; it either re-makes him as it wants him to be or sees Him as being irrelevant except for days when terrorists attack, the country faces war, or you discover you have terminal cancer. So much of this prayer that Jesus prays for His disciples has to do with our attitude toward, our relationship with, and our time spent in the world. For every generation of Christians, this has been a critical issue. How do we relate to the world? What do we teach our children about the world? Do we live in a cave in the desert to escape from the world? Do Christian parents keep their children isolated in a protective bubble from the world as much as possible? Do they forbid their children to be around other children who come from homes where the world’s values have been accepted? What do Christian parents and each individual do about television and music? How do we relate to this world’s value system that stands on the foundation of secularism, disregards the Bible as anything other than a piece of literature, and sees all truth as relative? While not all of these questions will be answered in this message, we will see some principles that you can apply and with the guidance of the indwelling Spirit make decisions about daily life.

I. The Disciple of Christ and the World (V14-16)

There are three wrong ways throughout church history that those who call themselves Christians have sought to relate to the world. One approach is isolation. This was the approach of the monastic movement. This movement was at its height in medieval times when Christians would seek to isolate themselves from the world in monasteries and convents. Another approach is insulation. This approach stays in the world, but insulates Christians from the problems and pains of those of the world. A good example of insulation is the priest and the Levite in the story Jesus gave called, “The Good Samaritan”. The priest and the Levite were willing to walk down the Jericho road, but they were not willing to share the problems of the beaten, robbed, half dead man on the side of the road. A third (and opposite) approach to the world by those who call themselves Christians could be called imitation. Those with this view say that the only way to reach the world is to be like the world. Many churches have adopted this approach to reaching the lost.

While we are to have different values, a different worldview, and a different source of authority, we are not to isolate ourselves, insulate ourselves, or imitate the world. We will see in these verses how the disciple of Christ should relate to the world.

A. Disciples of Christ Have Direction in the World (V14a)

We are in the world, seeking to make disciples in the world, loving those in the world, but we are to be separate from the world in our values because we have a different authority source **than** the world that causes us to go a different direction **from** the world. Every human being has an authority source whether they recognize it or not. For those of the world that authority source is human wisdom or as James calls it in James 3:15, “earthly, natural, and demonic” wisdom. That worldly wisdom is described in **Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV)** “in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”. Disciples of Jesus Christ have a totally different source of authority – the Scriptures. Because we have a different authority source, we will always see things differently from the world. God’s wisdom that we find in His Word seems as foolishness to the world. Their minds are blinded to eternal, spiritual truth. **1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)** “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” When our minds are not filled with and set on

the Word of God (our authority source), we begin to conform to the world's way of thinking and the world's wisdom. We find ourselves adopting the world's theology (view of God), the world's values, and the world's morals. That's why we must often be confronted head-on with **Romans 12:2 (NKJV)** "And do not be conformed to this world [literally, "stop being conformed], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Disciples of Christ must constantly be analyzing ourselves to be sure that we have not adopted the world's values. Our church must be careful to never adopt the world's view that sees success in terms of number of people and money. We must never fall into the world's pragmatism (whatever seems to work to get more numbers and money). We must constantly analyze to see that we have not been so concerned about being relevant that we have become irrelevant in the true cause of Christ and are really no different from the world. Our source of authority is the Word of God, and that word must determine our theology, our values, and even set parameters for our methods.

B. Disciples of Christ Will Be Rejected by the World (V14b)

Jesus said to the Pharisees in **John 8:23 (NKJV)** "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world." When we are following Christ and abiding in Him, the world recognizes that we also are not of this world and the world hates those who do not conform. Those first disciples went into the world filled with the Spirit of Christ after He ascended back to the Father. They were hated and killed by the world. Paul described it this way in **1 Corinthians 4:13b (NIV)** "Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world." The more our lives are like Jesus, the more the world hates and rejects us. Don't expect a pat on the back from the world system if you are filled with the Spirit of Christ and walking according to His agenda. John Phillips put it this way: "Jesus rocked the boat; He refused to conform. The world could not pour Him into its mold. He was too good, too clever, too brave, too honest, too different. So the world murdered Him. Now it reaches out its bloodstained hand to us. We are expected to shake hands with the world over the blood of Jesus. But we are not of the world, just as He was not of the world." [John Phillips, "Exploring the Gospels – John", Page 326]. Because of our rejection by the world, the world becomes our school in which we learn supernatural love of even our enemies, longsuffering, and returning good for evil.

C. Disciples of Christ Are Kept by the Father in the World (V15)

Let's look at that first statement that tells us what Jesus is not praying for. He is not praying that the Father take us out of the world. Why? We've been left here behind enemy lines because we are soldiers in a war and we have a mission that involves us being in the world. We will look at this more in depth when we get to verse 18, but when we are in the world, we are right where Jesus has placed us! As we saw in the introduction, we are in the world, not **isolated** from the world. If the Lord had desired for us to be isolated from the world, He would have taken us to Heaven as soon as we were saved. Parents, you cannot isolate your children from the world forever. Your task is to train them to be in the world, but not conformed to the world. That takes a lot of Spirit given wisdom, but do not try to isolate them. We are in the world and not **insulated** from the world. We are to respond to those of the world with compassion and a love that gets dirty and takes time. We ought to be known to those in the world as a people who care and not a people who gather in our holy huddles and hold hands and sing Kum-by-ya and then focus only on the things we are against. We are not to be isolated or insulated from the world, but we are also not to be **imitators** of the world. Jesus prays that while we are in the world as salt and light and responding with care and compassion to those in the world, that we would be kept from the evil of the world. Oh how we need the prayers of the Savior at this point. The translation of the last part of verse 15 could be translated as it is in the KJV "from the evil". In other words, it could be the evil of the world in general or the evil one who is called the god of this world in 2 Corinthians 4:4. I lean toward the "evil in general" translation, but the two possible translations aren't really that different. The evil one is the source of the general evil in the world, so in a sense it is splitting hairs. Why is Jesus praying this for us? It is because in our own strength we are unable to keep ourselves from the evil one or the evil in general in the world system. In other words, apart from the keeping power of God, we will begin to be conformed to the world

and adopt its values. The fact that we can't keep ourselves ought to generate in us an attitude of dependency upon God.

There are three identical prayers recorded in the Old Testament by three prophets of God that God did not answer. Moses, Elijah, and Jonah all three prayed that the Father would take them out of the world (kill them) and God refused to answer their prayer. We have a mission here and He will not take us out until our mission is accomplished, but until that time Jesus prays that the Father will keep us from the evil of the world.

D. Disciples of Christ Are Different from the World (V16)

I read a perfect illustration of the mess we're in today because we are no longer distinct from the world. A man said that he was following a car with a chrome fish symbol on the back with the name "Jesus" inside of it. There was a dove symbol on the bumper, the name of a Christian college on the rear window, and from the rearview mirror was an air freshener in the shape of a playboy bunny! Let me point out something really basic here. Jesus is not exhorting us to not be of the world; He is making a statement of fact! If we have become new creations in Christ, we are not of this world. We are like an astronaut in space or a deep sea diver in the ocean; we are not in our element. We are called in 1 Peter 2:11 "sojourners and pilgrims" here. Just as an astronaut or a deep sea diver must depend on outside resources to exist in their unnatural environment, we must depend on the indwelling Holy Spirit to enable us to live out our new life in a world that that we are not of. Arthur Pink gives seven ways that we are not of the world just as Jesus was not of the world:

1. Christians have a different standing from those in the world. Their standing is in Adam but a Christian's standing is in Christ.
2. Christians possess a different nature. Theirs is corrupt but Christians have become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).
3. Christians serve a different Master. Those of the world are described in **John 8:44a (NKJV)** "You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do." Christians serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Christians have a different aim. Those of the world aim to please self, but a true Christian's aim is to glorify God.
5. Christians have a different citizenship. Their citizenship is of this world but a Christian's citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).
6. Christians live a different life. Those of the world are slaves of sin, but a true Christian is no longer a slave of sin and lives a pattern of life that obeys Christ's commands and loves His word (1 John 2:3-5).
7. Christians have a different destiny. Those of the world have a destiny in the lake of fire and Christians will be forever in the Father's house.

Because we are not of this world, there is to always be something different about us compared to the world. Over a hundred years ago, Charles Spurgeon said: "Put your finger on any prosperous page in the church's history, and I will find a little marginal note reading thus: 'In this age men could readily see where the church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the church and the world were joined in marriage. The more the church is different from the world in her acts and in her maxims, the more true is her testimony for Christ and the more potent is her witness against sin." ["2200 Quotations from the Writings of Charles Spurgeon", Page 222]. AMEN!! The reason that the church has so little influence in the world is not because we are not relevant; it is because the world has so much influence over us and we are not distinct enough to even communicate that there is an alternative to the world.

II. The Disciple of Christ and the Word (V17-19)

You can quickly see that the key words in these verses are "sanctify" and "sanctified". The word "sanctify" is from the same root as the word "holy". A simple definition of sanctify is to set apart or make holy. To sanctify something is to set it apart for the Lord's special use. For God's people, to be sanctified is to be set apart from sin and the world system and devoted completely to God. Thus, a sanctified life and

a holy life is the same. There is a sense that we are already sanctified and another sense that we are being sanctified. At salvation, we were taken out of the Kingdom of darkness (Satan's domain) and transferred into, set apart to the Kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13). The Bible sometimes presents sanctification as something that is done. **1 Corinthians 1:2 (NKJV)** "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who **are sanctified** in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints [sanctified ones]..." Most of the Corinthians were not set apart in their behavior, but they were set apart in their position, their standing before God. The goal of the Christian life is to line up our daily practice with our position.

A. The Word of God Is the Means of the Disciple's Sanctification in the World (V17)

How can we live day by day and week by week in a world system that denies God's truth and match our practice with our position of being sanctified? We must know, engraft into our heart, and apply God's perfect truth found in His written word. The written Word of God does not just contain truth; it is truth in its entirety! God is all about truth. God the Father is truth: **Psalms 31:5b (NKJV)** "...You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth." God the Son is truth: **John 14:6 (NKJV)** "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" God the Holy Spirit is truth: **John 14:17a (NKJV)** "the Spirit of truth..." Satan, the god of this world, is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). Our triune God is truth and this God of truth has given us His Word and His Word IS truth. His Word is the means of our sanctification. As we renew our minds in the Word of God and appropriate our true identity in Christ as we are taught in the Word, we stop being conformed to the world and are progressively set apart from sin and we more deeply love, worship and glorify God. That's a good description of spiritual growth.

B. The Word Gives the Disciple Their Mission in the World (V18)

We have a mission here in the world. What is it? It is the same mission Jesus had. **Luke 19:10 (NKJV)** "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." That was His mission. Jesus says the basically the same thing in our text (John 17:18). Christ has given us His place of acceptance with the Father above (**Ephesians 1:6b (NKJV)** "...He has made us accepted in the Beloved.") and His place in God's mission of redemption here below. We were chosen out of the world and then sent back into the world. **1 John 4:17b (NKJV)** "...as He is, so are we in this world." We share His mission – that's why you are here! This is such a simple truth and yet most of God's people have never gotten it. You aren't here to accumulate possessions or honors or a name for yourself. You are here to glorify the One who chose you and gave you as a love gift to His Son and to join Him on the mission of seeking and saving the Ones for whom Jesus died.

C. The Word Shows the Disciple Their Model in the World (V19)

Jesus is here speaking primarily of the cross. He had no sin to be set apart from but He sets Himself apart to the Father's plan to take our sins and the judgment for those sins in order that we might be set apart from sin and devoted totally to God. As He was obedient in His sanctification, even so must we follow His example.

CONCLUSION

What is our response? We are to draw upon the resources God has given us (His indwelling Spirit and His enabling grace) to not be conformed to the world. Then taking the Word of God, we engraft it into our souls (James 1:21) and trusting the Holy Spirit to fill us, we commit ourselves to the mission that He has given us here.