

“Out Of This World!”
John 17

Introduction:

1. For The Last Several Weeks:
 - We've Been Exploring Together:
 - What The World Is:
 - According To God's Perspective!
 - And - What Worldliness Is!
 - And - We've Seen That:
 - The World Is:
 - Not Our Friend - And So:
 - We Are Not To Be:
 - Friends With The World!
2. Now - This Is A Pretty:
 - Negative Portrayal:
 - Of The Fallen World System:
 - In Which We Live!
 - And - The Reason Why:
 - It's Been So Negative:
 - Is Because Of Just How:
 - Positive The World:
 - Makes Itself Out To Be!
3. But - If We Are Not To:
 - Love The World - Or:
 - Be Conformed To The World - Or:
 - Even Be Friends With The World!
 - Then - What Should:
 - Our Relationship:
 - With This World:
 - Be Like?
4. Well - Jesus Himself:
 - Addressed How:
 - We - As Christians - Are To:
 - Live In This World:
 - In A Surprising Place:
 - In The Gospels!
 - Even In John 17:
 - Which Records For Us:
 - The High-Priestly Prayer:
 - Of Jesus For His People!
 - So - Let's Open Back Up Our Bibles:
 - To John 17!
5. And - Even Though:
 - We Will Look More Closely At His Prayer:
 - When We Get To It:
 - On Sunday Mornings!
 - It Is Also A Great Place:
 - For Us To Turn - To See:
 - That As Christians - We Are To Live:
 - In This World - Like:
 - We Are “Out Of This World!”
6. And So - Through This Special Prayer:
 - Jesus Reveals:
 - What Our Relationship With This World:
 - Is Like & Ought To Be Like:
 - In Four Ways!

* First - We Need To Remember That:

1. ***Our Past In This World:***

- Is Reclaimed:
 - By God - Through The Gospel!
 - Our Past - Has Been:
 - Reclaimed!
 - And - We See This In:
 - 17:6a - When Jesus Says To His Father:
 - “I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world!”
 - The Key Phrase That Jesus Uses Here:
 - Is - “Out Of The World!”
 - Which Means That:
 - When We Were Saved:
 - We Were Saved:
- From Our Home:
 - In This World!
 - **IE:** The Word “Home” Probably Conjures Up Good Memories For Most Of Us! Because “Home” Is What We Know Most & Love Best & Where We Are Most Comfortable!
 - But - When The World Is Our Home:
 - We Need To Remember All That The Bible Tells Us About It!
 - Because Of What This World Is Like:
 - We Needed To Be Saved:
 - Out Of It!
 - Out Of Its Daftness!
 - Out Of Its Darkness!
 - Out Of Its Desperation!
 - Out Of Its Death!
 - Out Of Its Defilement!
 - Out Of Its Deficiency! And Even:
 - Out Of Its Devils! All Found In John!
 - This Is What Our Home:
 - In This World:
 - Is Really Like!
 - But - What Does Jesus Say About Us & Our Old Home? In This World?
 - 17:6 - God The Father “Gave” Us To Jesus “Out Of This World!”
 - He Saved Us & Reclaimed Us Unto Himself!
 - **IE:** The Country Of The Netherlands Has A Fascinating Relationship With The Sea! They Have Had To “Reclaim” Land From The Sea Throughout Their History! In Fact, By Using Dikes & Dams - They Have Been Able Increase The Size Of Their Country - So That 27% Of Their Land Is Below Sea Level - And Now Over 60% Of Their Population Lives On Reclaimed Land!
 - But - Though The Dutch Have Been Able To Reclaim Land From The Sea - God - Through His Grace - Reclaimed His People From The World!
 - And So Now - We Are To Live In This World Like:
 - We Are “Out Of This World!”
 - But - Not Only Were We Saved:
 - From Our Home:
 - In This World:
 - We Were Also Saved:
- From Our History:
 - In This World!
 - Peter Describes Our History & Participation In This World In 1 Peter 4:3-4 - When He Says:
 - “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: / Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you!”
 - In Other Words:
 - When You Were Saved:
 - By The Grace Of God - Through:
 - Faith In Jesus Christ!
 - He Saved You So That:

- Your Past Would Stay In The Past!
- Your History Would Remain History!
- Because - Now - The World & The People In The World Should:
 - “Think It Strange” That You Do Not Look Like Or Live Like Them Anymore!
- So - The First Thing We Need To Remember:
 - About Our Relationship With This World:
 - Is That Our Past / Your Past:
 - Has Been Reclaimed & Redeemed:
 - Through The Gospel!
 - We Have Been Given:
 - By God - To Jesus:
 - “Out Of The World!”
 - So That Now:
 - We Have A New Home & A New Heritage!
 - Our Past In This World:
 - Has Been Reclaimed!

* But - Then We Also Need To Remember That:

2. ***Our Presence In This Word:***

- Remains!
 - And - We See This In:
 - 17:11 - When Jesus Also Prays:
 - “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are!”
 - The Key Phrase That Jesus Uses Here:
 - Is - “In The World!”
 - Because - While Jesus Is:
 - “*No More* In The World!”
 - Physically!
 - Believers *Are*:
 - “In The World!”
 - And - We Remain Here Because Of Him!
 - But - There’s A Special Connection:
 - Between Our Presence:
 - In This World Now!
 - And Jesus’ Presence:
 - In This World Then!
 - And That Is - We Remain In This World:
 - For The Same Reasons:
 - That Jesus Was In This World!
 - So - Going Back Through:
 - The Gospel Of John:
 - We Find Some Of The Reasons Why:
 - Jesus Was “In The World!”
- In John 13:1 - John Tells Us:
 - “Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end!”
 - So - One Reason Jesus Was In The World:
 - Was To Love His Own:
 - Who Were In The World With Him!
 - And Now - This Is:
 - *Our* Reason For:
 - Remaining In This World!
 - To Reflect His Love!
 - To Reflect His Love:
 - To Others! And:
 - To Reflect His Love:
 - To The World!

- This Is What We Are To Do:
 - While We Remain:
 - In This World! Then:
- In John 9:5 - Jesus Himself Says:
 - "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world!"
 - So - Another Reason Jesus Was In The World:
 - Was To Shine His Light:
 - Into The Darkness Of This World!
 - And Now - This Is:
 - Our Reason Too For:
 - Remaining In This World!
 - To Reveal:
 - His Light!
 - In Philippians 2:15 - Paul Tells Us That:
 - We Are To Be - "Blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world!"
 - This Too Is What We Are To Do:
 - While We Remain:
 - In This World! But Then:
- All The Way Back In John 1:10 - John Tells Us This About Jesus:
 - "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not!"
 - So - Even Though Jesus Was In The World:
 - To Reveal Both:
 - His Divine Love & Light!
 - How Did The World:
 - Respond To Him?
 - They "Knew Him Not!"
 - And Rejected Him & Killed Him!
 - And Now - This Is What:
 - We Can Expect As *We*:
 - Remain In This World!
 - Rejection!
- And So - We Need To Remember:
 - Not Only That:
 - Our Past In This World:
 - Has Been Reclaimed!
 - But Also That:
 - Our Presence In This World:
 - Remains!
 - And We Can Rely Upon The Lord:
 - To Help Us Reflect Him & Reveal Him:
 - In This World - Even When:
 - The World Rejects Us As It Rejected Him!
 - And - We Can Rely On Him:
 - To Keep & Preserve Us:
 - While We Remain In This World:
 - Because Of What Jesus Said About His Disciples In 17:12!
 - 17:12 - "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled!"
 - As Jesus Kept His Disciples Then:
 - He Will Keep Us Now!
 - Even As We Remain In This World!

* But - Then We Also Need To Remember That:

3. ***Our Position In This World:***

- Is Rectified!
 - And - We See This In:
 - 17:14 - Where Jesus Continues His Prayer:
 - "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the

- world, even as I am not of the world!”
 - The Key Phrase Here:
 - Is - “Not Of The World!”
- This Is Where We Get:
 - The Common Idea That:
 - As Christians - We Are:
 - In The World - But Not:
 - Of The World!
- Jesus Even Repeats Himself:
 - In 17:16 - When He Says:
 - “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world!”
- So - What Is Our Relationship:
 - With The World To Be Like:
 - So Far?
 - Though We Remain:
 - In The World!
 - We Are Not To Be:
 - Of The World!
 - Because - We Were Taken:
 - Out Of The World:
 - The Moment We Were Saved!
- But - How Did This Come About?
 - How Did This Happen To:
 - Our Old Life & Position:
 - In This World?
 - Well - Back In John 15:19:
 - Jesus Also Told His Disciples:
 - “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!”
- So - Jesus Chose Us:
 - Out Of The World:
 - So That We Might Be:
 - “Not Of The World!”
 - In Other Words:
 - Jesus Chose Us So That:
 - Our Lives Might Be:
 - Vastly Different Than The World Around Us!
 - Isn’t This What We Find In:
 - 1 Peter 2:9 - “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!”
 - But Also:
- Jesus Changes Us:
 - So That We Might - More & More - Be:
 - “Not Of The World!”
 - That Is - We Will Have A Different:
 - Character & Spirit Than The World!
 - This Is Why Jesus Says:
 - He Gave Us God’s Word!
 - Its Because We Are:
 - “Not Of The World!”
 - But - What Does God’s Word:
 - Do For Us?
 - It Sanctifies Us!
 - It Changes Us To Be More Holy As He Is Holy!
 - So - Jesus Prays In:
 - 17:17 - “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth!”
- So - We Need To Remember That:

- Our Past In This World:
 - Has Been Reclaimed!
 - We Were Taken:
 - “Out Of The World!”
- Our Presence In This World:
 - Remains!
 - Since - As The Body Of Christ We Are:
 - “In The World!”
- Yet - Our Position In This World:
 - Has Been Rectified!
 - Because - We Are Now:
 - “Not Of The World!”
- And - We Can Continue To:
 - Rely On The Lord To:
 - Keep Us This Way:
 - In Our New Position!
 - Because Of The Power Of Jesus’ Prayer:
 - In 17:15 - “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil!”
 - So - Even Though:
 - In This World:
 - Evil Is Still All Around Us!
 - God Can & Will:
 - “Keep” And Preserve Us From It!
 - And - He Will:
 - Keep Changing Us:
 - Through His Word!

* But - This Leads Us To A Fourth Thing We Need To Remember About Our Relationship With This World - And That Is:

4. *Our Purpose In This World:*

- Is Restored!
 - And - We See This In:
 - 17:18 - Where Jesus Adds In His Prayer:
 - “As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world!”
 - The Key Phrase Here:
 - Is - “Into The World!”
 - So - Even While We Remain:
 - “In The World” - Jesus Himself:
 - Has Sent Us:
 - “Into The World!”
 - And So Now:
 - Every One Of Us:
 - Has A Real Purpose:
 - In Our Lives In This World!
 - And - This Purpose Is Based On:
 - A Great Authority!
 - Jesus Himself!
 - Because - Here He Says:
 - “*I Also* Sent Them Into The World!”
 - We Need To Remember That:
 - It Is Jesus Christ - Our Own Savior:
 - Who Has Restored Our Purpose:
 - For Living!
 - “I Also!”
 - And Now - We Need To:
 - Submit To His Authority:
 - Even As Jesus Willingly & Cheerfully Submitted Himself:
 - To The Plan & Authority Of His Father!
 - Which Was His Plan Too!

- So - Jesus' Purpose:
 - For Our Lives:
 - Needs To Be More & More:
 - Of Our Own!
 - **IE:** Just Like The Planets Aligned In The Night Sky Last Week! One Right Behind Another! This Is How Our Plans & Purpose Need To Line Up With God's! Only - Permanently!
 - This Purpose Is Also:
- A Great Appointment!
 - Again - Jesus Said:
 - 17:18 - "I Also Sent!"
 - Jesus Sent & Sends His Disciples:
 - To Do His Will!
 - And - What Does God's Will Involve?
 - In Acts 26:18 - The Apostle Paul:
 - Tells King Agrippa:
 - What Jesus Sent Him To Do:
 - "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me!"
 - So - Even As We Are:
 - To Resist The World:
 - And Its Constant Pressure & Pull!
 - We Are Also To Do All We Can:
 - To Reach The World!
 - Because - Jesus Himself:
 - Sends Us "Into The World!"
 - Which Is:
- A Great Audience!
 - It Is This World:
 - Full Of Despair:
 - That Needs The Love Of Christ!
 - And - That Is Why Jesus Was Sent:
 - Into It - Even As We Are Told:
 - In 1 John 4:9 - "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him!"
 - It Is This World:
 - Full Of Darkness:
 - That Needs The Light Of Christ!
 - And - Once Again - This Is Why Jesus Was Sent:
 - Into It - Even As Jesus Said:
 - In John 12:46 - "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness!"
 - It Is This World:
 - Full Of Deception:
 - That Needs The Truth Of Christ!
 - Which Is Also Why Jesus Was Sent:
 - Into It - As Jesus Said To Pilate:
 - In John 18:37 - "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth!"
- And Now - What Does Jesus Say:
 - To His Father Back In 17:18?
 - "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world!"
 - So - We Too Are Sent:
 - "Into The World" - For:
 - This Same Purpose!
 - A Greater Purpose Than Any Other Purpose In This World!
 - Now - With Such A Lofty Purpose:
 - How Can We Ever Fulfill It?
 - Well - Once Again - We Can Rest In:

- The Prayer Of Jesus!
- As We Find In:
 - 17:20 - Where Jesus Says:
 - “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word!”
- We Can Rest In:
 - God’s Answer To Jesus’ Prayer:
 - For The Success Of:
 - Our Purpose & Mission:
 - In This World!

Conclusion:

1. So - According To Jesus:
 - This Is What Our Relationship:
 - With This World:
 - Is & Ought To Be Like:
 - As Christians & As A Church!
 - And - We Need To Remember:
 - And Live Like:
 - We Have Been:
 - Taken Out Of This World!
 - And - Even Though:
 - We Remain In This World:
 - We Are Not:
 - Of This World!
 - Instead - Jesus Himself:
 - Has Sent Us:
 - Into This World:
 - To Influence The World:
 - And Not The Other Way Around!
 - 2. And - Even Though:
 - The World May Reject Us:
 - Even As It Rejected Jesus:
 - We Can Take Comfort In What Jesus Says:
 - In 17:23b! That - One Day:
 - “The World May Know That Thou Hast Sent Me, And Has Loved Them, As Thou Hast Loved Me!”
 - So - In The End:
 - The World Will Know:
 - The Truth:
 - About Christ - And:
 - About Christians!
 - 3. And This Is Why:
 - We Are To Live In This World:
 - Like We Are “Out Of This World!”
 - Because - In A Spiritual Way:
 - We Already Are!

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