



CHURCH & CULTURE

IN, BUT NOT OF.

What does it mean to be in the world, but not of it? Obviously, we can't cut ourselves off entirely. We use the same English language, we drive cars, and we go to the doctor and do many things the same way as unbelievers. It's not that culture itself is the evil (although, sure, it can be.) So what how are we supposed to live?

Jesus means that we, as God's children, don't partake in sinful behavior of the world. Some behaviors unbelievers do are innocent, some are good, and some are just wrong. Pornography, murder, theft, etc. Christians are to be different not just by our beliefs, but also by our actions. So, no, we don't condemn the world; and we don't build up walls to retreat from the world. We just live knowing we're life people, life through Jesus, and we get the opportunity to bring that life to the world around us as well.

IN THE BIBLE.

John 17:13-19

13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even

as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) What aspects of culture do you think are good? Neutral? Evil?
- 2.) What do you do if a fellow Christian disagrees? Is there room for disagreement?
- 3.) Do you feel you tend to condemn, retreat from, engage with, or bring life to the world? Why?
- 4.) How can you bring Jesus' life to the world/people around you?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these 3 questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?