

September 6, 2020

## “Not of the World”

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall  
**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff, Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*  
*We offer Bible classes for all ages*  
*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

In **John 17:15-17**, Jesus said, “*I pray not that you would take them from the world, but that you would keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in your truth. Your Word is truth.*”

These words demonstrate the principle that Christians are to be “in the world, but not of the world.”

The work God gives us cannot be accomplished by cutting oneself off from society. Instead, we must be “in the world.” Part of being “in the world” is living amid unrighteousness (cf. **2 Pet. 2:5-9**).

Living *righteously* amid unrighteousness is the key. While Christians are surrounded by evil, this does not excuse evil on *our* part. We must shine light on the darkness, instead of joining it. This is the idea behind the phrase “*not of the world.*”

**John 17:17** explains how we can be “in the world, but not of the world.” The word “*sanctify*” used by Jesus refers to being set apart from evil for God’s use. This sanctification is possible through God’s Word. To be “in the world, but not of the world,” we must let God’s Word transform our thinking and behavior (**Rom. 12:2**), rather than letting society dictate our morals.

People of the world tend to focus on doing what fits one’s *own* will for life, but faithful Christians center their lives on pleasing God by following *His* will (cf. **2 Cor. 5:9**).

Because the faithful Christian is focused on pleasing *God*, he or she will develop a *character* that is far different from the world.

# “Not of the World”

(Continued)

While the world displays pride, envy, covetousness, ingratitude, and the like, we must be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control, compassion, gratitude, and virtue (**Gal. 5:22-23; Col. 3:12-15; 2 Pet. 1:5-8**).

Such character differences are evidenced by one’s *speech*. While the world is given to filthy language like cursing, we must speak words that edify (**Col. 3:8**). While the world sees “little white lies” as acceptable, the faithful Christian always speaks truth (**Col. 3:9**). While gossip is common in our society, it will not be common in *us* if we are pleasing God (**Rom. 1:29-30**).

Our *actions* will also be much different from the world’s if we are pleasing God.

Consider, for instance, how faithful Christians conduct themselves in the marriage relationship. While the world says that a husband and wife can choose for themselves what roles to fill, God teaches that the husband and wife perfectly complement one another by accepting the roles *He* has assigned.

God commands, “**Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.**” (**Eph. 5:22**), and, “**Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself up for it**” (verse 25).

God’s pattern is for the husband to be the chief provider (**1 Tim. 5:8**), while the wife’s primary responsibility is in the home (**Titus 2:4-5**). While men and women have equal *importance* and *value*, this does not mean that God gives the same *roles* to men and women.

This truth is unpopular in our society, but that does not make it *untrue*.

The same could be said with divorce and remarriage. While the world may teach that if one grows tired of his or her spouse, he or she can leave the marriage and look for another mate, *God* teaches something far different. In **Matthew 19:9**, Jesus said, “**Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery.**”

While on the subject of marriage, note that God designed marriage to be between a *man* and a *woman*. Homosexual conduct is condemned in **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**. Concerning the sins listed in these verses, **verse 11** says, “**Such were some of you...**” This shows that homosexual conduct can (and must) be repented of. This truth is, again, extremely unpopular in the society we live in, but that does not make it *untrue*.

Homosexual conduct is a form of *fornication*, as are *adultery* and *premarital sex*. While such behavior is commonplace in society, God forbids it (**Gal. 5:19**). He further forbids “**lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties**” (**1 Pet. 4:3; NKJV**). He also *commands* practices that are *uncommon*, like devotion to prayer (**Col. 4:2**), diligent study of His Word (**1 Pet. 2:2**), and sincere self-examination (**2 Cor. 13:5**).

It is evident that the lifestyle Jesus prayed for His disciples to live in **John 17** is far different from the lifestyle of the majority.

May we each choose this lifestyle and not be “**of the world.**”

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Ken & Chris F  
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)  
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella  
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)  
Carlyle (Hip)

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## Words to Consider

***“Love is patient and is kind. Love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.” – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7***

***“And above all things be earnest in your love among yourselves, for love covers a multitude of sins.” – 1 Pet. 4:8***

## Daily Bible Reading

September 6 – Job 22-24; Acts 11  
September 7 – Job 25-27; Acts 12  
September 8 – Job 28-29; Acts 13:1-25  
September 9 – Job 30-31; Acts 13:26-52  
September 10 – Job 32-33; Acts 14  
September 11 – Job 34-35; Acts 15:1-21  
September 12 – Job 36-37; Acts 15:22-41

***“My soul has observed your testimonies. I love them exceedingly.” – Psalm 119:167***

**Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Bible Study: John

Worship: Harold

Evening: Larry

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Dan H

**Assignments**

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Reading: Harold

Announcements: Roger

Table: Darrell

Serve: Mike

Dan H

**Clean Building**

Cynde

**Prepare Communion**

June / July

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Invitation: Travis

**Upcoming Reminders**

**Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**

September 15 – Emory

September 20 – Michael