

# Not of the World

## I. Introduction

- A. As Jesus indicated through His prayer in John 17, His disciples are to be in the world, but not of the world. **John 17:15-17**
- B. Consider some specific applications of this principle, noting the contrast between what is common in the *world* and what *God* commands of us. We must not be of the world...

## II. ...When It Comes to Life's Focus

- A. While the world tends to focus on doing what fits one's *own* will for life, the faithful Christian centers his or her life on pleasing God by following *His* will. **2 Corinthians 5:9**
- B. While the world tends to treasure that which makes one happy while on earth, the faithful Christian lays up treasure in *heaven*. **Matthew 6:19-20**

## III. ...When It Comes to Contentment

- A. Because the faithful Christian is focused on submitting to God's will, he or she is able to have contentment regardless of what earthly circumstances are like. **Philippians 4:11-13**

## IV. ...When It Comes to Character

- A. While the world displays selfishness, envy, and greed, the faithful Christian is full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control, compassion, and gratitude. **Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-15**

## V. ...When It Comes to Speech

- A. While the world is given to filthy language, like cursing, the Christian speaks words that build up. **Colossians 3:8**
- B. While the world sees "little white lies" as acceptable, the faithful Christian always speaks the truth. **Colossians 3:9**
- C. While gossip is widespread in the world around us, such will not be true of us if we are pleasing God. **Romans 1:29-30**

## VI. ...When It Comes to Marriage

- A. While the world might say that husbands and wives can decide for themselves what roles to fill in the family, God teaches that He created husbands and wives to perfectly complement one another by following *His* pattern for the home. **Ephesians 5:22-25; Titus 2:4-5**
- B. Moreover, the world may teach that if one grows tired of his or her spouse, he or she may choose to leave the marriage, and look for another mate. God, however, teaches something far different. **Matthew 19:6, 9**

## VII. ...When It Comes to Homosexual Conduct

- A. The world may also promote the idea that two men or two women may be married or engage in homosexual conduct, but *God* teaches otherwise. **1 Cor. 6:9-11**

## VIII. ...When It Comes to Fornication

- A. Homosexual conduct is a form of fornication, as are adultery and premarital sex. While the world may make light of such behavior, fornication is abhorred by God. **1 Corinthians 7:2**
- B. Fornication often stems from acts of "lewdness" (NKJV), which acts are sinful in themselves. **Galatians 5:19**
- C. Fornication also often stems from sinful lust, which, like lasciviousness, the world hardly "bats an eye" at, but our Lord condemns. **Matthew 5:27-28**

## IX. ...When It Comes to Drunkenness

- A. An additional sin condemned in Scripture that the world promotes is *drunkenness*. Intoxication is condemned, and so too are "drinking parties" (NKJV; ESV). **1 Peter 4:3**

## X. Conclusion

- A. May we not be of the world, but truly follow that which brings glory to God. **John 17:16**