



# Asking For A Friend

## Disagreeing With The World, How Do I Love and Live In It?

John 17:6-19

Week of February 14, 2021

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Before Connect Group

- John 17:6-19
  - Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>
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*I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*

John 17:6-19, ESV

# Sermon Notes

## Notable Quotable

If I am a follower of Jesus and Jesus is not honored in this world, then we stand in opposition to this world. Yet, we know we cannot just write off the entire world but find a way to engage with it in some manner. How do we engage with the world while being at odds with it? There is a realistic expectation of conflict between the world and those who claim to follow Jesus Christ.

John 17 is the prayer Jesus prays for His disciples as they are to engage the world. It looks at us being opposed of the world, engaging with the world, and living in it. This prayer of Jesus over his disciples as they prepare to live as God-glorifying believers without Christ's physical presence on this earth. He is praying important Gospel words over them.

## You Are Opposed To The World

- "out of the world" - John 17:6-9
- "not of this world" - John 17:14
- We have spent several weeks working through this Gospel message. We have talked all the way from the love of God to your identity as a Child of God.
- The Gospel is not about trying to make us better people or change our actions to do better. Instead, the Gospel is looking to change us and transform us from the inside out. There is a changing that occurs that reshapes our identity, our being, and everything about us, not just a do better Gospel.
- All of this has been to help us see that the Gospel changes us from what we were, to what we are in Christ. This change, changes everything. It sets us in opposition to the world around us.
- Your opposition to the world is the same as Christ's opposition to the world.
  - *John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*
  - We cannot continue to think that we will be experiencing a Gospel with less opposition than what Christ endured.
- Your opposition to the world is of little concern due to your heavenly residence.
  - *Philippians 3:17-21 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*
  - *Colossians 2:20-23 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.*
  - *Colossians 3:1-4 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden*

*with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

- In reference to what Christ gave us and in the perspective of what God offers to His people, the opposition we face does not compare.
- Your opposition to the world includes the battle against your own flesh.
  - *1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*
  - As long as we are looking to fight a battle on a moral ground, we will always fail, but when we fight the battle on the goodness of God and focusing on above, we will win the war. Our joy will be filled up and our focus is on the glory of God.
  - We are an alien in our own body, our spirit fighting against our flesh.
- Many who claim to be Christians are looking for peace in this world. It will never come.
- Many are looking for fulfillment in this world, it will never come.
- Many are looking for acceptance in this world, it will never come.
- One of the greatest dangers of Modern Christianity is the misunderstanding that the Gospel brings to the life of the believer something other than opposition to this world.
  - This is truly the greatest danger of the so called “prosperity gospel.” It teaches the direct opposite of what Scripture clearly says.
  - It wants you to believe that coming to Christ will make everything alright. (yes in eternity, no on this earth)
  - It wants you to believe that God’s ultimate goal is your wellbeing on this earth (yes in your spirit, no in your earthly body)
  - *John 12:25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*
- Can we be Christians who are not shocked when things do not end up as we think they should?
- Can we be Christians who do not walk around as victims because we cannot seem to get ahead in this world?
- Can we be Christians who are always confident that every day is going to be a raging battle, but it is all for the Glory of God and we will praise Him for all eternity that He has given to us through His Son?

If life is a bit too smooth, may it speak a word of caution to your soul that Christ is invisible in your life or worse, maybe not there. Or it might explain the context hit against a brick wall while you faithfully stand in opposition to this world by proclaiming the world of Christ, potentially explaining our trials. Either way, it drives us to the next part of our question. If I am set against the world, how am I to interact with the world around me?

## **How Do I Interact With This World While Still On It?**

- This point is where you will find many believers separate.
- Some will assume the best interaction is to be consumed by the culture and philosophies of this world to the point that anyone from any religion could walk into their church and worship without offense.
- Others stand on the street corners with picket signs protesting culture with angry spouts of judgment, using Scripture as their just cause.
- Both of these approaches are out of line with the truth of Scripture.
- *John 17:11-13 “that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves”*

- Scripture sets the pattern in Christ.
- There is no one who has more opposition and offense of this world than a holy and righteous God who has been sinned against in heaven.
- God responds to an enemy world with love. Love! Love is the pattern set out to follow!
  - *John 3:16-17* "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
  - Jesus tells us in John 13 that the new command he leaves for His disciples is Love one another.
  - We are boldly called to both oppose this world and act in Love.
  - *Ephesians 5:1-2* Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
  - The love of God has withheld judgement for a time, but has not done away with it. This is one of the most dangerous lack of Theology the Church has ever fallen into. That if God is love, then there cannot be a judgement. The assumption is that they contradict.
  - The problem is an unbiblical definition of Love.
- Love is full acceptance of God through Truth in Jesus Christ
  - *John 6:60-64* When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe."

When you love the world in Truth, it will hate you for it. Many will not recognize the accepting love of truth, and those who do will immediately become enemies of the world.

## How Do I Live In The World?

- *John 17:15* I do not ask that you take them out of the world.
- The great paradox of life, is that the Lord has called you "out of this world", but has left you in it.
- You have a God-glorifying purpose right here, right now.
- You are not only "left" in the world. Now you are considered "sent"!
- We have a God glorifying mission and purpose in this world that we live out in this world by being sanctified and set apart in this world. Being sanctified
- *John 17:17-19*
- Do not fall into the trap of believing your life displays the Glory of God in your finished sanctification state. Your assumption of moral grandeur will lead you to an unbiblical position of judgement over this world forgetting that your own flesh opposes you.
- Rather, it is your process of sanctification that most glorifies God. Live it boldly.
- Who in this world can judge you (1 Corinthians 4)? Your sin is already known and paid for in the cross of Christ.
- Do not fall into the trap of justifying sin taking granted the grace of God and making insignificant the Cross of Christ!

Your Christian life is against this world, but as such, your love through truth can have significant impact. So live your life boldly under the grace and love of Christ. So that this world may see a true presentation of the Gospel. Not one that speaks false truth or promises worldly plunders. But one that does the divine work of sanctification in each of us. *“Philippians 2:14-15 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”*

## Connect Group Discussion Questions

- In what ways are we unified with Jesus Christ, according to His prayer in John 17? What are some practical ways we express this unification with Jesus Christ
- How does a life reformed by the grace and love of Christ shape us against the world? What is the difference between a person pursuing the world and a person pursuing the spirit?
- What are some of the tensions that Christians feel with their status of being called out of the world while still being in it?
- Is it easier for you to err on the side of accepting the culture or being too critical of the culture? Why? How does Jesus Christ
- Why is it sometimes difficult to love our enemies? What do we tend to do as a default rather than love them? How does Jesus Christ empower us to love our enemies?
- What can we do to live in this world while still looking towards the hope that is our future glory with Jesus Christ?

### Challenge For The Week

Likely, we have all heard the phrase “we are in the world but not of the world.” It speaks to the tension we feel of being in the world but pursuing the Lord above the things of this world.

- During your prayer time this week, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you pursue the world above the things of God and where you tolerate the world more than you should.
- Who is someone in your life that needs to hear the good news of the Gospel? While we may be nervous of what they may think, think of how you can share the Gospel with them.

