

February 28th, “In” But Not “Of”
Part 3 in the series ‘What in the World?’

What were some things from last Sunday’s message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

READ Romans 12:1-2

12 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.

In what ways is it obviously harmless for a Christian to "conform" to the world? (dress, to a degree, cuisine, terminology, etc...)

In what ways should Christians definitely not conform to this world? (Be specific.)

What are some of the more obvious ways this world's values are different from God's values?

What are some of the more subtle ways this world's values are different from God's values? (Be specific)

READ 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. **6** For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

What are some ways in this day and age that Satan has “blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel”?

What do you think Paul means when he says “For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord”? What would it mean to ‘preach oneself’?

READ John 3:19-21

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever

lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Why do you think people still love the darkness when they hear the gospel preached? If the gospel means forgiveness for our sins, why doesn't everyone hear it as good news?

Why are both truth and God described as light?

A: John 14:6 "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.""

READ John 17:15-21

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. 20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Why do you think Jesus' prayer for His followers is not to remove them from the world?

What do you think Jesus means by "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."?