IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 17:6-16
A Paradox

- A paradox is defined as a “seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true.”
A Christian Paradox

• “From death comes life”

  ▫ True of seed - 1 Cor. 15:36-38
  ▫ True of an individual Christian - Rom. 6:3-7
  ▫ True of Mankind in Jesus - Rom. 5:15
Christ’s Most Famous Paradox

- John 17:11 & 14-17 - "And I am no more in the world; and {yet} they themselves are in the world …

- 14 "I have given them Thy Word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil {one.} "They are not of the world, as I am not of the world."
Christ’s Meaning

- Do NOT be *conformed* to the world – Rom 12:1-2.

- **James 4:4** - “Friendship with this world is *hostility* toward God?

- Do NOT *love the world’s ways* nor the *things of the world* {more than the things of God} - 1 John 2:15-17
A Balanced Life

• Christ’s clear point is that while we must live in this world, we must not let the world influence us. We must not become the world’s servant…
Gradualism; “Accepting Sin”

- Sin *deceives* men into leaving God for the world – Heb 3:12-14

- If I live in the world, and follow the sins of the world, then the world *owns* me - *John 8:34*

- As Christians we are to abstain from every *form* of evil. – *1 Thes. 5:22*
Gradualism; “Accepting Sin”

• If we select all of our friends from the world, and we allow them to influence our choices, then soon we will become more like them then Jesus – Paul warned in 1 Cor.15:33.

• Christians ARE counter-cultural individuals.
• We choose to go against the grain.
• We fight the downward trends of evil.
The Genuine Danger

- The world are running headlong toward hell and unless we point them in the right direction, unless we are ourselves going the opposite direction, many will be lost eternally – Matt. 7:13-14,

- Including some who at present are saying “Lord, Lord,” but are not really DOING the will of GOD – Matt. 7:21.
Jesus’ Example

- Jesus came into the world to *heal* it - Mt 9:10-13


- Jesus commanded His disciples to go *into* all the world – *Matt 28:18-20* with the Gospel, *(for the same reason).*
Our Example

• We are *called* to be an *example* to the world - 1 Pet 2:11-12, 1 Tim. 4:12
Striking the Balance

- Being *in* society *without surrendering to* societies mores.

- Never allowing the world to *dictate* His/our behavior.

- **Staying close to His God**, spending an *appropriate* amount of time with our neighbors and an *appropriate* amount of time with our God
  - *Jn. 6:15* (in prayer).
Matt. 5:13-16

• “Salt is worthless if it is no longer distinctive (salty).”

• “Light is useless if it is hidden under a basket.”
The singular “Doc” Jesus says;

• You cannot live IN the world any longer.

• It is past time for you to come OUT of the world.

• If the WORLD has control of your life, you must return to the path of RIGHTEOUSNESS tonight!