

Series: The Prayer of Jesus; *Sermon:* **In the World but Not of the World**
Delivered by: **Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* October 27, 2019

Bible text explored: John 17:14-16

¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. [ESV]

Review and application:

John repeatedly uses the word world in his Gospel. It means people in rebellion against God, or the human system opposed to God's purposes.

1. Earlier in Jesus' prayer (*John 17:11*), he noted that his disciples "are in the world." What does he mean? (See *Matt. 5:13-16*.)
In today's section of his prayer (vv. 14 and 16), Jesus says his disciples "are not of the world." What does he mean here?
2. Christians have sometimes tended to extremes in their understanding of how to live "in" the world without being "of" the world. What are some examples of over-stressing separation from the world to avoid compromise?
What are some examples of over-stressing identification with the world to show empathy?
3. For balanced alignment with God's Word, is it essential for us to create physical distance from the world?
On the other hand, what vital spiritual and moral distinctions must we maintain?
4. If opposition is the normal fate of the church in the world, when is its approval (as in *Matt. 5:16*) a good thing?
When is that approval (as in *Matt. 5:11-12*) a warning sign?
5. What (v. 15) are some ways in which the devil attacks God's people?
How does God protect us from his attacks?
(See, for example, *Eph. 6:10-17*.)
6. How should being "in" the world affect how we know and love our neighbors?
7. Why should not being "of" the world cause us to re-evaluate . . .
. . . how we use our time?
. . . how we use our money? (See *Matt. 19:23; Exod. 12:35-36*.)
8. How could we—like the Reformers in their day—articulate the gospel in ways that make the light credible in the darkness of our own culture?