

The Christian's Attitude Toward this Present World.

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Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.**
- 3. What is the Christian's attitude toward this world?**
- 4. Conclusion**

Introduction

- 1. The Scriptures speak of this world and the relation that the Christian is to have in it.**
- 2. We must understand what the Scriptures teach regarding this subject and develop the attitude toward this world that is in harmony with the truth.**
- 3. The proper attitude is always that which is based upon truth.**

Introduction

4. The word, “world”, is used in various senses in the Scriptures:

a. Physical universe

John 17:5

5 “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

John 17:24

24 “Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

Introduction

b. Inhabitants

John 3:16

16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 17:21

21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Introduction

c. Age or dispensation

Matt 12:32

32 “Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

Matt. 13:39-40

39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.

40 “So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

Introduction

d. Order, sphere or cosmos of evil

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, **the love of the Father is not in him.**

16 For **all that is in the world**, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the boastful **pride of life**, is not from the Father, but **is from the world.**

17 **The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

John 18:36

36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

A. Different from other kingdoms.

- 1. Was not established as other kingdoms were.**
- 2. The King was not a triumphant hero as in kingdoms of men.**
- 3. Does not restrain its subjects by force. Christ's kingdom displays love.**
- 4. Its purpose is spiritual and not material.**

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

5. It is eternal.

Dan. 2:44

44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a **kingdom which will never be destroyed**, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but **it will itself endure forever**.

Heb. 12:28

28 Therefore, since we receive a **kingdom which cannot be shaken**, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

**B. As subjects of the kingdom,
Christians must not be of “this world”.
The disciple is not above the master.**

Luke 6:40

40 “A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

1a. For God's children to be of this world they are considered rebellious toward God.

Matt. 6:24

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Matt. 12:30

30 "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

1b. We will serve God or “the god of this world.”

2 Cor. 4:4

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

2. There are Christians today who possess the wrong attitude toward Christ's kingdom.

They want to be part of this world by:

a. Advocating that the kingdom's business is to engage in projects that Christ never ordained to be the business of His kingdom. For example, recreation, youth movements and social halls.

b. Adopting fleshly appeals of this world and artificial lures to increase membership.

c. Catering to wealth, fame and glory of men.

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

d. Minimizing or watering down the preaching of God's Word to please men.

Gal. 1:10

10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

The Christian is to recognize that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

3. The Gospel is God's drawing power.

John 6:44-45

44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

45 "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

Rom. 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:

A. They are in this world, but not of the world.

John 17:14-16

14 “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*.

16 “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:

B. They have to associate with people in the world to share the Gospel message.

1 Cor. 5:9-11

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;

10 I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.

11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

1 Cor. 15:33

33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:

C. They are not to love this present world. The love that men entertain for this world is evil desire.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

2 Tim. 4:10

10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens *has gone* to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:
D. Friendship with the world is enmity with God.

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

James 4:4

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:

E. They are not to conform to this world.

Rom. 12:1-2

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:

F. One's soul is more precious than the whole world.

Mark 8:36-37

36 “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”

37 “For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:

G. The cares of this world can choke the Word and cause the child of God to become unfaithful.

Matt. 13:22

22 “And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:

H. Christians are to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth, by following God's commands.

Matt. 6:19-20

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

The Christian's attitude toward this world consists in recognizing that:

I. They brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that they shall carry nothing out.

Job 1:21

21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

1 Tim. 6:7

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

Conclusion

- 1. Christians are to live in this world, but not to be of this world.**
- 2. Christians are to conquer or be conquered!**
- 3. Christians can never serve this world and be with God in the Eternal World to come.**