

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

1. Text: I John 2:15-17
2. Our lesson deals with the Lord's church's relationship to the world. The church is in the world and must deal with it. The major issue is which has more influence over the other.
3. Let's explore that relationship:

I. The Definition Of The World

1. The Greek word (kosmos) appears 186 times in the New Testament. And it is used in different ways, mainly three.
2. It is sometimes used of the world as the planet earth. See Acts 17:24 (God who made the world); Romans 1:20 ("since the creation of the world").
3. It is used of humanity or mankind. See John 3:16.
4. It is used of the world hostile to God, lost in sin, rebellious, and at odds with the divine will. Our focus will be mainly with this definition.

II. The Dangers Of This World

1. This world is ruled by Satan. I John 5:19 The whole world is under the sway of the wicked one. II Corinthians 4:4 The god of this world. John 12:31; 16:11 The ruler of this world.
2. James 4:4 Don't you know friendship with the world is enmity with God.
3. John 3:19 Light came into the world but men loved the darkness because their deeds were evil.
4. John 15:18 If the world hates you, it hated the Lord before.
5. I John 2:15 Do not love the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
6. I John 2:17 The world passes away; he who does the will of God abides forever.
7. I John 3:13 Don't marvel if the world hates you.
8. I John 4:1 Many false prophets have gone out into the world.
9. II Timothy 4:10 One abandoned Paul "having loved this present world." (II Peter 2:20-21)

III. The Defiance Of This World (By Christians)

1. Worldly: devoted to temporal world. Worldly-minded: absorbed in the affairs of this world. Worldliness: The unthinking adopting of the perspective, values, attitudes of our culture without bringing them under the judgment of God's word.
2. Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on the earth.
3. I John 5:4 Born of God overcomes the world, victory comes by our faith (John 3:5); I John 5:5
4. II Peter 1:4 Escape the corruption in the world.
5. James 1:27 Keep undefiled or pure from the world.
6. Philippians 2:15 You shine as lights in the world (Matthew 5:14)
7. I John 4:4-5 He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

IV. The Deliverance Of The World

1. Salvation means deliverance, rescue. This hostile world God chose to save.
2. John 1:29 The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
3. I John 4:9 God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him.
4. I John 4:14 The Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.
5. II Corinthians 5:19 God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.
6. I Timothy 1:15 Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Evening, October 29, 2006**

