

How To Live Separate From This World

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“Modern Christians hope to save the world by being like it. But it will never work. The Church’s power over the world springs out of her unlikeness to it. Never from her integration into it.”

—A.W. Tozer

“That very church which the world likes best is sure to be that which God abhors.”

— Charles H. Spurgeon

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility (*mataiotēs* - devoid of truth and appropriateness, perverse, depravity) **of their minds.**

18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness (*pōrōsis* - the covering with a callus, stubbornness, stupidity) **of heart.**

2 Corinthians 3:15-16 ESV

15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.

*16 But when one turns (*epistrephō* - to revert, to convert, bring back, to turn) to the Lord, the veil is removed.*

2 Corinthians 11:2 ESV

2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

- *The spiritual blindness of the unbeliever is supernaturally Satanic in origin and nature.*
- *Spiritual blindness comes when we refuse to surrender our will, “...due to their hardness of heart.”*

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ESV

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- *If permitted by the individual, this spiritual darkness can even blot out the light of the Gospel!*
- *Fear the power of your stubbornness and rebellion!*

Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- *The mind that is spiritually dark is in sync with and subject to the course of this world and the prince of the power of the air.*
- *They are not “free” but slaves of depravity descending to deeper depths of depravity.*

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV

19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

20 **But that is not the way you learned Christ!--**

21 **assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,**

22 **to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,**

- *“...your old self...is corrupt...” Our flesh is flesh and will never change or improve until we shed this body either by death or by rapture.*
- *Our old self, the flesh, is not eliminated but is overcome, so don’t be surprised nor alarmed if the passions of your flesh are very much alive.*

Romans 7:21-24 ESV

21 *So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.*

22 *For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,*

23 *but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.*

24 *Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

- *The born-again Christian mourns and loathes his/her sin.*
- *If your heart feels hatred, remorse and is repulsed because of your sins, take comfort in the mercy and forgiveness of God!*

"Don't let anxieties about sanctification destroy your confidence of justification."

—Charles Spurgeon

Galatians 5:16-18 ESV

16 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

- *walk (peripateō) to regulate one's life, to conduct one's life, to pass one's life*

17 *For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

18 *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

- *led (agō) lead, bring, to lead by laying hold of, to lead by accompanying, to lead with oneself, to conduct, to carry, impel*
- *The battle against your flesh will never wane and will never be eliminated until we are delivered from this body - so prepare yourself for a long battle.*

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV

23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,

- **renewed** (ananeoō) - to make new, renovate, reform again
 - from "ana" anew, over again, repetition
 - from "neos" recently born, new, fresh

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ESV

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

- We are not abandoned to the depravity of the flesh and the mind.
- We have supernatural, spiritual weapons from God to destroy within ourselves what we could never conquer through our own will-power or self-righteousness.

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

John 17:16-17 ESV

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

17 Sanctify (hagiazo - to make holy, to separate from profane things and dedicate to God) them in the truth; your word is truth.

Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV

22 to put off your old self...

23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,

24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

- **To walk in holiness, free from sin, requires two steps:**
 - **a decision of repentance**
 - "...to put off your old self..." (apotithēmi - to put off, lay aside, cast off, put away)
 - "...to put on the new self..." (endyō - to sink into clothing, clothe oneself, endue, put on)

- **surrender to the life and power of God's Word**

Psalm 1:1-4 ESV

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.