



IN but not OF

John 17:14-19 (NLT) *I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹ And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.*

- It's clear Jesus does not want His followers to be "of the world." He says it about Himself and His disciples, but notice it is going somewhere. This isn't the destination. It's the starting place.

3 Critical Questions

1. Does the church believe, honor and FOLLOW the teaching of the Bible?

- **The truth and authority of the Word of God are a church's backbone.** The church must understand that God clearly calls them to reach out to the lost, to sacrifice their time and resources and to passionately share Jesus' message with others.

2. Does the church LOVE people and LONG for them to know Jesus?

- **When we truly "love our neighbor," the love drives outward.** We hurt for those who are struggling and lost. We will do whatever it takes for those to get a taste of the Gospel and to experience the love of God.

3. Are the people in the church willing to SACRIFICE to the point that they will JOYFULLY embrace change?

Luke 9:23 (NLT) *Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.*

- **What are we willing to sacrifice? We will not compromise God's Word or the core beliefs of the faith, but if we are going to reach the world with Jesus' message, there will be a price both individually and as a body.**

- We should reach the lost and GROW DISCIPLES to reach the lost.

Matthew 22:37-39 (NLT) *If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.*

- When this love is alive and growing in our hearts, we willingly, and naturally, sacrifice for the sake of those who are not yet followers of the Savior.

Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: John 17:1-5

Wednesday: John 17:20-26

Friday: Luke 9:18-27

Tuesday: John 17:6-19

Thursday: Luke 9:1-17

Saturday: Matthew 22

Talk it Over:

1. Discuss the phrase *in the world, but not of the world*.
2. Discuss the fact that the Bible is truth.
3. Do you love people and long for them to find Jesus? What does longing look like?
4. What is the price to be paid individually to reach out and love people?
5. What are you doing to cultivate the love of God in your life?