

INTRO

- In your group, share all the countries that have been visited and/or lived in.

READ

John 17:14-18

REFLECT & RESPOND

As Jesus prays for his disciples—both current and future—he references the hostility of the world towards his mission and message and therefore all who align themselves with it. So, what are we to make of “the world” Jesus refers to?

“THE WORLD”

It’s vital we understand what Jesus meant (and didn’t) by “the world.” Part of the confusion is that the world can be used in multiple ways:

- The World as **Creation** (as in Jn 1:10)
- The World as **Humanity** (as in Jn 3:16)

But this is not what Jesus means in this passage. God loves his creation and humanity, and so should we!

Qu: why is it important as Christians we know God isn’t against his world as creation or people? How should this influence how we interact with creation and people?

The World as **System**—godless way of life that is opposed to God and seeks to redefine what’s true, good and beautiful independent of God.

The Apostle John further develops this idea of a Godless World System warning about its power to deform and disorder our desires and lives:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the **desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world. — 1 John 2:15-16

In his prayer, Jesus gives us the posture we are to embrace in view of this hostile world.

“SET APART”

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. v17

1. Set apart *from* the world that is hostile to and rejects God’s truth

Notice Jesus reminds us as his disciples that we are not of this world (v14,16). We are of a different world, his kingdom.

2. Set apart *for* the world that remains the object of God’s love & redemption

Notice Jesus doesn’t pray for us to be removed from this world either. He loves the world—creation and humanity—that is under the spell of sin and rebellion. In fact, as Jesus was sent into the world, he sends us! (v18)

Qu: In what ways was Jesus sent into the world that we should follow as our example?

3. Set apart *through* abiding in the truth

The antidote to the world’s system is living by the light and truth of God’s word and allowing that to form us in every which way: our approach to success, money, sexuality, marriage, work, parenting, what’s good/bad, priorities, etc.

Qu: as you reflect on being set apart both from and for the world through God’s truth, how can you apply this to your life?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for discernment, wisdom in terms of engaging with the world
- Pray for a greater sense and understanding of your calling *into* the world