

Christ's Prayer for Our Sanctification (Part III)

John 17:6-19

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Introduction: What should be the believer's relationship to this world? We are given the answer in this high priestly prayer of our Lord, as He prays for His apostles. We see His prayer for the apostles' sanctification. Note here in these verses how Christ prays for those who are out of the world, yet in the world; not of the world, yet sent into the world. We have considered previously the phrases, "*out of the world*" (:6-10 > our salvation) & "*in the world*" (:11-13 > our situation). Note with me this evening the phrase, "*not of the world*" (which speaks of separation). Here we learn of (1) the world's regard for the believer; (2) the believer's response to the world; & (3) the Lord's request for the believer.

[Review: I. The believer is "*out of the world*" (:6-10 > speaks of **salvation**)

- A. The believer's citizenship is in heaven.
- B. The believer's discipleship is on earth.

II. The believer is "*in the world*" (:11-13 > speaks of **situation**)

- A. For now – association with the world (there is contact).
- B. But no-accommodation with the world (there is to be no compromise).]

III. The believer is "*not of the world*" (:14-17) > speaks of **separation**

[define "*world*" – (1) the world in which we live? (2) the world of mankind opposed to Christ? (3) the world system, under the power of Satan, the "*prince of this world*"?]

A. The world's regard for the believer (:14, "*...the world hath hated them*")

- 1. The world's disdain for the believer ("*hated them*").
 - a. Because the believer doesn't belong to it (cf. John 15:18-19).
 - b. Because the believer doesn't behave like it (cf. John 7:7).

Application: "If you are in with God, you are at outs with this world" (Gypsy Smith).
"The measure of our discord with the world is the measure of our accord with Christ"
(Alexander McLaren).

B. The believer's response to the world (:16, "*...not of the world*")

- 1. No conformity to the world (cf. Romans 12:2) > Are you different from the world?
- 2. No spot from the world (cf. James 1:27) > Are you defiled by the world?
- 3. No love for the world (cf. I John 2:15) > Are you devoted to the world?

Illustrate: If you love someone or something, you (1) spend time with, (2) speak often about, (3) sacrifice oneself for.

C. The Lord's request for the believer (:17, "*Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.*")

- 1. The definition > there is a prayer for sanctification:
 - a. "*Sanctify*" – make holy; separate.
 - b. Set apart for a particular purpose; God's desire for the believer to love what God loves & to hate what God hates (cf. Psalm 97:10).
- 2. The demonstration > there is a process of sanctification:
 - a. Negatively – "Separation from participating in & being influenced by evil."
 - b. Positively – "Growth in holiness or moral purity in attitudes, thoughts, & actions."

Application: “They (believers) are not to be worldly men. They are to be holy men, separate from the world to be of service to the world” (Leon Morris).

Summary: “*Thy word is truth*” > The Greek word is a noun, “*aletheia*” & is not an adjective, meaning “Thy word is true.” “This implies that God’s Word does not simply conform to some other external standard of ‘truth,’ but that it is truth itself; that is, it embodies truth & it therefore is the standard of truth against which everything else must be tested & compared” (Study Word note).

Illustration: “*But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*”

Conclusion: How about you this evening? Is your relationship to the world in answer to the Lord’s prayer? Are you out of this world (salvation), yet in the world (situation); not of the world (separation)? Next week we will learn that we are sent into this world (service).

Review here the world’s regard for the believer; the believer’s response to the world; & the Lord’s request for the believer. The emphasis in this section (17:14-17) is “*truth*.” God’s Word is truth (17:17); the Son is the truth (14:6); & God’s Spirit is the truth (I John 5:6, “...*And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth*”). It could be said that with the *mind* we learn God’s truth; with the *heart* we love God’s truth; & with the *will* we live God’s truth. Wiersbe comments: “It is not enough merely to study the Bible & learn a great deal of doctrinal truth. We must also love Jesus Christ more as we learn all that He is & all He has done for us. Learning & loving should lead to living, allowing the Spirit of God to enable us to obey His Word. This is how we glorify Him in this present evil world.”

Again I ask: What is your relationship to the Lord this evening?