

# Christ's Prayer for Our Sanctification

*John 17:18-19*

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Introduction: Again I ask, "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); & "*not of the world*" (:14-17 > which speaks of separation). Note with me this evening the phrase: "*sent into the world*" (17:18-19 > which speaks of our service). Here we learn of the believer's motivation & the believer's message.

[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**)

- A. The world's regard for the believer (:14, "*...the world hath hated them*")
- 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?
- C. The Lord's request for the believer (:17, "*Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.*")

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).

Illustrate: A new convert asked D.L. Moody, "Now that I am converted (saved), must I give up the world?" Moody replied, "No, you need not give up the world; if you give a ringing testimony for the Son of God the world will give you up pretty quick. They will not want you around."

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).

IV. The believer is "*sent into the world*" (:18-19 > speaks of **service**)

[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*"?]

Parallel text > John 20:21, "*Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*"

- A. The believer's motivation – "*the love of Christ*" (II Corinthians 5:14-15, "*For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, & rose again.*").

1. Christ's love for him (the believer) > cf. Romans 5:8, "*But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*"
2. The believer's love for Christ > cf. II Corinthians 5:15, "...*they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, & rose again*").

B. The believer's message – the **Gospel** of Christ (II Corinthians 5:18-21, "*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, & hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; & hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made \ Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*).

1. It is a personal message (:18, "...*reconciled us...given to us...*").
2. It is a powerful message (:19, "...*the world...*" – sufficient sacrifice, I John 2:2).
3. It is a prayerful message (:20, "...*we pray you...*").

Note: We will not be effective in our service for Christ if we are not separated from the world (cf. John 17:17).

Application: "Sanctification is not for the purpose of selfish enjoyment or boasting; it is so that we might represent Christ in this world to win others to Him. Jesus set Himself apart for us, & now He has set us apart for Him. The Father sent Him into the world, & now He sends us into the world. We are people 'under orders' & we had better obey! Jesus is now 'set apart' in heaven, praying for us, that our witness will bear fruit as many repent of their sins & turn to the Lord" (Wiersbe).

Conclusion: Could you sing from your heart & truly mean it, "Then I bid farewell to the way of the world, to walk in it nevermore"? Or how about the third stanza of "*I Have Decided To Follow Jesus*," "The world behind me, the cross before me... No turning back, no turning back"? Bud Robinson, a well-known preacher of several generations ago, was taken by some of his friends to visit New York City. He was shown all that the city had to offer. That night before going to sleep he prayed, "Lord, I thank You for letting me see all the sights of New York City. And I thank you most of all that I didn't see a thing that I wanted." How about you this evening? Is your relationship to the world in answer to the Lord's prayer? "We have the Word of God to enlighten us, enable us, & encourage us" (Wiersbe). Are you out of this world, yet in the world; not of the world, yet sent into this world?