

True Spirituality – In the World

A Study in Colossians 4 v 2 – 6

How does the world see us? – **John 15 v 18-26** Jesus teaches His disciples

- that we are “different” v 18-19

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as it’s own...but you don’t.”

(1 Peter 2 v 9-10 “You are a chosen people...belonging to God”)

- that we are “outcasts” v 19-20

“But I have chosen you out of the world, and so the world hates you...they persecuted Me, so they’ll persecute you too.”

(1 Peter 2 v 11 “I urge you, as aliens and strangers, not to sin”)

- that we are “on a mission” v 26-27

“When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you’ll testify of Me, because you are with Me.”

(1 Peter 2 v 12 “By seeing your good works, they may believe”)

Colossians 4 v 2 – 6

“Devote yourselves to prayer(devotion), being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too(dependency), that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should(desire). Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity(duty). Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

What makes us “different”?

We are devoted to a prayerful life Devotion to God

- Devoted to being prayerful, watchful and thankful v 2

We require the prayers of others Dependency on one another

- Dependent on the prayerful support of others v 3

We have a message to share Desire to witness

- Desire to share the Good News clearly v 3-4

We are zealous in our service Duty to serve

- Duty to make the most of every opportunity v 5

What makes us “outcasts”?

The way of the world is to be *self-devoted* - 2 Corinthians 4 v 4
“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers.”
self-dependent - Psalms 14 v 1
“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’.”
self-pleasing - Philippians 2 v 3
“Do nothing out of selfish ambition.”
self-serving - Luke 12 v 19-20
“And I’ll say to myself, ‘I’ve plenty, now I can enjoy.’ But God says, ‘You fool’.”

But, **Philippians 4 v 13** – Our total reliance on Christ, to do His will:

Our Devotion to God;
Our Dependency on God;
Our Desire to please God;
Our Duty to serve God.

“I really can do absolutely anything; through Christ’s empowerment I’m ready for any challenge.” The Amplified Bible

What makes us “on a mission”?

Acts 1 v 8 “...and you will be my witnesses.”

Colossians 4 v 6 “Let your conversation...” – speech, manner, presentation

- a mission of Grace - where there is hatred
- a mission of Wholesomeness (salt) - where there is sin and corruption
- a mission of Truth - where the world has no answers

In **John 15** Jesus told His disciples they would be seen by the world as –
“different”, “outcasts” and “on a mission”.

In **John 17** Jesus prays for His disciples in the world.

v 14 “...the world has hated them, for they are no longer of this world.”

v 17-19 “...sanctify them by Your truth...that they may be wholesome in the world.”

v 20 “...that the world will believe in Me through their message.”