

## Dealing with People of the World

**Jesus was questioned for being around people "of the world"** - Matt 9:10-13 - 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many **tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples**. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "**It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.**" 13 But go and learn what this means: '**I DESIRE MERCY, NOT SACRIFICE.**' For **I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.**"

**Our main goal is to help change the people of the world, to be people for Christ** - Matt 28:18-20 - 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**We make them people for Christ by getting to know them, in order to win them for Christ** - 1 Cor 9:19-22 - 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, **I MAKE MYSELF A SLAVE TO EVERYONE, TO WIN AS MANY AS POSSIBLE**. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. **I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN SO THAT BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME.**

**Christians have a responsibility to be around the people of the world** - Matt 5:14-16 - 14 "You ARE the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN**, that they may see your good deeds and **praise your Father in heaven**."

**We must be alert while doing this responsibility** - Matt 10:16 I am sending you out like **sheep among wolves**. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

**We are NOT to expect the people of the world's lifestyles to be Godly** - 1 Cor 5:9-13 - 9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not AT ALL meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. **In that case you would have to leave this world**. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. 12 **What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church?** Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

**People of the world's focus and purpose will be different than Believers** - Luke 12:29-31 - 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For **THE PAGAN WORLD RUNS AFTER ALL SUCH THINGS**, and your Father knows that you need them.

**People of the world CAN'T understand the things of God, so we must translate** - 1 Cor 2:13-14 - 13 **This is what we speak**, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for **they are foolishness to him**, and **HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THEM**, because **they are spiritually discerned**.

**We must be careful & strategic when interacting with the people of the world concerning the things of God** - 1 Cor 10:27-30 - 27 If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. 28 But **if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake**— 29 **THE OTHER MAN'S CONSCIENCE**, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience? 30 If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

**Our relationship with ANYONE of the world MUST NEVER be a partnership** - 2 Cor 6:14-17 - 14 **DO NOT be yoked together with unbelievers**. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For **we are the temple of the living God**. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 17 "**THEREFORE COME OUT FROM THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD**. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

\* **This means, though we are around them, we must NOT ALLOW them to influence us.**

**A major part of our ministry to the world will be HOW we live** - 1 Peter 2:12 **Live such good lives AMONG the pagans** that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**Be Warned, it is our responsibility not to be corrupted by the World, while being in the world**

**We must not ALLOW the world to corrupt us** - James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and **to KEEP ONESELF from being polluted by the world.**

**\*Polluted by the world does not mean being in the world, it means how WE ALLOW the world to affect us**

**Our relationship with the world will dictate if we are corrupt or not** - James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that **friendship with the world is hatred toward God?** Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

**True Christians DO NOT love the world...any part of it** - 1 John 2:15-17 - 15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM. 16 For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, **but the man who does the will of God lives forever.**