

## Living In Two Worlds

1 Peter 2.11-16; 2 Corinthians 5.17-21

Augustine wrote his famous *City of God* in 413 A.D. In it, he describes two cities, the city of the world and the city of God, and calls on society to choose which city it will be a part of. Our challenge as believers is to live in *both* ‘cities’ – to be *in* the world, but not *of* the world.

Where We’ve Been: Review

*In a world abandoning God, we must renew our commitment to Him.*

*In a world abandoning truth, we hold to God’s unchanging truth.*

*In a world opposed to God, we trust in the sovereign of all nations.*

Aliens and Strangers: In the World, Not Of the World

- Following Our Savior-King  
John 18.36-38a
- Dead...but walking around!  
John 17.14-16; Col. 3.3; 1 Cor. 5.9-10
- Present...but not partaking.  
John 15.19; 1 John 4.4-6; James 4.4

A Holy Nation: Alive in Heaven, Ambassadors on Earth

2 Cor. 5.17, 20; 1 Pet. 2.9-10

1. Since the Fall of man in Genesis 3, the conflict between good and evil has raged. Satan has sought to undermine the redemptive plan of God by constantly and resolutely spreading his ‘stock in trade,’ lust, sin, and death (see John 10.10a; 1 John 2.16). As a Christian grows in his or her faith, an awareness of spiritual conflict grows too. Read Paul’s description of this conflict in Romans 7.14-25. Why is this spiritual battle so hard? (See Eph. 6.12; 1 John 5.19.) In what areas of your life do you experience this battle the most?
2. Perhaps you’ve heard Christians say, with the despair and evil so pervasive in society, “I wish I could live on an abandoned island somewhere and escape all this!” This is a natural longing for those who in their hearts are ‘not of this world’ (see Jn 17.14-16; 2 Cor. 5.17; Col. 3.3; 1 Pet. 2.9-11), for our deepest yearning is to be free from the presence of sin. Even Paul, writing from a prison cell, felt this longing. Read Phil. 1.21-24. What consideration convinces him to continue his ministry?
3. Someone has suggested it would be great if God had made it so the instant a person believed in Jesus, they could *opt out* of the world and move on to heaven! Why didn’t He do this? We might ask, ‘If Jesus’ kingdom is not of this world (see John 18.36), why does He want us here?’ Why did Jesus come to this world (John 3.16-17)? Jesus said His kingdom was not of *this world*, but Scripture clearly says that He will reign for a thousand years on earth (Rev. 20.1-6). What did Jesus mean by ‘this world’?
4. The struggle we experience from being part of ‘two worlds’ – *in* one, but *of* another, frames our lives. In the midst of a pervasively evil world, how does God want us to *act* and *react* to it (Eph. 5.7-16; 1 Jn. 2.15-17; James 4.4)?
5. In 2 Cor. 5.20, Christians are called *ambassadors for Christ*. What does an earthly ambassador represent? For whom does he speak? Similarly, what ‘nation’ does an ambassador for Christ represent (1 Peter 2.9)? What is our ‘purpose’ as *ambassadors* in this life?

**They are not of the world,  
even as I am not of the world.**

*John 17:16*