**Not Of This World**

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Jesus has called us out of this world system and into the Kingdom of Light, the Kingdom of God and His Father. We must live and be different in a world that is changing, dark and evil.

Jesus did not come to change the world but to call people out of it. The term “ekklesia” means the called-out ones. God’s people are “chosen” and “called” and “sent out”.

**Illustration:** The Titanic is salvaged: The idea that the Titanic has to be restored before its treasures can be placed on display is absurd. At salvation, we are converted, but we are not completely saved. Salvation is a process; we are saved, being saved and we shall be saved. The process of salvation is called sanctification.

**1John 2:15-17**

15Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

**1Peter 2:9**

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**Main Points**

1. **Called out of darkness (the world’s system)**

**Colossians 1:13-14**

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Gross darkness will cover the earth:

The prophet Isaiah warned us that gross darkness would cover the earth and the people. The “new day” of this world, their mantra communicates:

* We know better than God
* We know more than God
* We do not need God and His wisdom
* We do not want limitations
* We are living in a post post-modern world that is rooted in Gnosticism and nihilism:
* *The rejection of all religious and moral principles and the acceptance that life is meaningless.*

**Colossians 2:8**

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

**John 15:19**

If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

1. **Called to a peaceful life**

* Be at peace when the Lord returns
* Live with the peace of God and in God
* Remain in peace in the midst of a world that is selling fear and uncertainty
* Let the peace of God be the umpire of your life, let it rule over your circumstances
* Peace will bring health to your life
* Guard your heart and mind.

**Colossians 3:15**

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

**Philippians 4:6-7**

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1. **Called to convictions – called to holiness**

* We are “converted” when we become born-again, we are saved in eternity – in the middle is the process of “sanctification”
* Sanctification means to be set apart
* To be made holy
* We are sanctified by His Word and His Spirit
* It is impossible to be sanctified unless you are in the Word and connected to the Holy Spirit.

1. **We are called to high moral standards**

* “We are better”
* We have been made the righteousness of God
* Born-again of the Spirit of God
* Filled with the Holy Spirit
* Anointed, that means to be set apart
* We have the Spirit of Truth
* We always tend to measure our worst against the worlds best and also the worst and negative parts of us
* Peter called Christians peculiar people
* We cannot embrace or life by the values of the world system
* The world calls their righteousness “political correctness” and “woke”
* Political correctness and woke is a licence to justify sin and perversion
* We have no excuse to behave poorly as Christ followers
* How are we different?

**1Timothy 4:12**

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

* Conduct
* Love
* In Example.

1. **Called to fellowship with Jesus**

* To keep our eyes on Jesus and focus on Him
* A new way and a new day
* Our mission is to preach the Gospel and disciple people (Matthew 28:18-20)
* Jesus said, “For this purpose I have come”
* Because we lock the power of God, we misplace the Scriptures and misuse them for our benefit.

**1John 1:3-4**

3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship iswith the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

**1John 17:15-18**

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

**Questions & Discussion**

1. Describe the term Gnosticism. List five examples of Gnosticism in our daily lives.
2. Define the term nihilism. How is this being played out in our society?
3. Why is Christianity under attack in the western world?
4. What was Jesus’ purpose in coming into the world? What did He actually say?
5. What does the Bible say about being holy? Why do God’s people not speak in these terms any longer?
6. Explain the difference between the “peace of God”, the “peace in God” and to be at “peace with God”.
7. List ten standards that have been lowered by Christians in modern day life.