

## **The world vs The church**

**Who is “the world”?** - a system – a way of governing, controlling, regulating

A mentality – worldview, politically correct, tolerant, inclusive, accepting

A philosophy – humanism, self made, self serving, intellectual narcissism

A loose morality – no restraints, no boundaries, as long as you don’t hurt anyone else

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**Who is “The church”?** - a Family (a limited intimate, exclusive group)... not everyone is one of Gods children.

Army (a militant force to be reckoned with)

Body – a living organism. Interconnected, self-sufficient, life sustaining.

A moral compass – 10 commandments, The beatitudes, Golden rule...

Ecclesia – means “called out ones”, the bride of Christ (we are married to him) married to an idea, way of life, relationship,

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**What does the world think of the church?** Ignorant, homophobic, intolerant, judgmental, elitists.

To The world, the CROSS is an offense. Preaching SIN is an offense, The Bible is an offense

These things are inflammatory! Divisive!

Music, dress code, atmosphere, are internal preferences. They are irrelevant, The world doesn’t really care!

Us vs them? Is this really necessary? Is it becoming even more so?

Church vs world? - - Traditional vs modern

Conservative vs liberal - - Bible vs philosophies

Renew your mind vs secular rationale - Faith vs science?

What’s absolutely necessary? What’s (socially / spiritually) healthy?  
should we Merge? Conform? Embrace Diplomatic diluting?

Conviction? Separation... to what extent? Can Christians get superstitious and superspiritual about avoiding “coodies” of worldly people ? (Pharisees vs Jesus friends)

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

2 cor 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup> What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> 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."<sup>17</sup> Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

John 15:18-19 <sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Phil 3:20-21 <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform us

Rev 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "'Come out of her, my people,' so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

1 Cor 1: 18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?<sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.<sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,<sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.<sup>26</sup> Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

## Can Christians unite for a greater cause? What divides us among ourselves?

**We have separated because of secondary issues, church government structures, worship styles, culture, titles, ...**

1 cor 12:12-30

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by<sup>[c]</sup> one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has placed (you) in the church