

## **We are not of this World: Living Sanctified** By Christine Uyehara

### John 17:14-19

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

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

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

From Verse 13 the world is the *cosmos*= world, planet and its inhabitants who live on it. Satan is the prince of this world because he rules the systems of the world, which are designed to confuse and distract and tempt (entice) people so they will not turn to God via Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

When we believe in (on) Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9 & 10) we are saved and rescued from the world. We have another alternative: we can change allegiance as to who we follow, what we imitate, what we value. We can live set apart (sanctified) from world as we choose to live a holy life like the new nature of Christ that we have within.

We're obviously not removed from earth. The solution wasn't to live in isolation or separate from the world; or Jesus Christ would have taken us up with him. This also doesn't guarantee we will stop sinning - that's a daily decision, but by God's grace we at least live free from the slavery of the world.

### Romans 12:1 & 2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Practically speaking, in this prayer in John was recorded to express how to live in the world and yet not be of it. So we could be involved and influence society and our communities without getting sucked back into the systems of the world.

We were meant to go back into the "war zone" in order to rescue others: Jesus said, "I have sent them." This implies that there is another objective or destination besides just getting sanctified. The Word sanctifies us so that we can go back in and not lose our way. The Word gives us boundaries so we can know whether we're crossing the line back into slavery to the world or if we're staying in the framework of liberty. It hedges us in where it's safe in God's will.

Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist, was a "conductor" for the Underground Railroad for 8 years. She was born a slave, but escaped to freedom by going to a free state where slavery had been abolished. When she got to Philadelphia, she thought of her family and friends in Maryland who like her, should also be free. She made 13 trips in 11 years to free about 70 slaves. She used the North Star to guide her. She brought them into safe borders where they were free and their freedom was secured. She was never

captured, nor were the fugitives she guided. She said, "I was a conductor of the underground railroad for 8 years and I can say what most conductors can't say: I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger." She is also quoted as saying, "I freed a thousand slaves, I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves." She was willing to risk her life and go back in to save others. It was not enough for just herself to be free.

In many ways we can be like her: not just settling for what we can have ourselves, but what we can also make available to others. Our sanctification is the starting place (not the destination) of what we are called to do. We're sent to the world, like Jesus Christ was for us, not to disassociate or isolate ourselves from it, but rather to help them become free of the bondage of sin.

Romans 6:6-18

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6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

The world will still try to enslave you even after you have been freed. It has endless suggestions trying to desensitize us to evil. For example, billboards, magazine covers and articles, movies, TV, newspapers, internet, and more. The world will also try to lure you in with temptations and distractions such as prestige, fame, adoration, praise of men, wealth, acceptance; but we are warned of this.

### 1 John 2:15-17

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

We still interact with people in the world and have relations with others around us, yet we are warned of how others can impact us and how important it is to watch over our associations so we stay sanctified and not do become tolerant and accepting of evil. We do this to protect ourselves and others in the household from evil influences, to stay holy for God and to stay in a position to help others. If we get “taken out,” who will live for God: who will rescue others?

### 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Who will be the Harriet Tubmans of our day? We are going to be in the world among ungodly, immoral, and worldly people. We were once these people and thank God that someone, a Godly person, was willing to be around us.

One question to consider is “Am I changing my environment or is my environment changing me?” If you are the one changing, then remove yourself from the influences.

Lastly, don't be discouraged by the lack of appreciation for your service to society. Many will despise you, criticize you and even try to hinder or oppose you. Some even like staying in their bondage and complacency. It's “safe” to them. It's comfortable as opposed to change and discipline.

Also, devil spirits will oppose you, wanting to stay in their habitation. You're in good company. Jesus Christ dealt with the same challenges.

John 15:19

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

1 John 4:4-6

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Some will hear, some will not.