

4. Review David Wells' definition of the world and the chart about the devil, the flesh, and the world. The world can also be used to refer to the people of the world, the earth, and to other things as well. What do you learn about how to live in relation to the world from the following passages?

1 John 2: 15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 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. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Luke 9: 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

John 3: 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 15: 18-20 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 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. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also."

5. Jesus sends us as his disciples into the world to help point people to him. The BLESS practices provide a simple framework for carrying out that mission with people we know (see the end of the sermon outline for the practices). Think of one person on your prayer BLESS or someone you work with or a friend who needs Christ. Which of the BLESS practices can you focus on next with that person (be as specific as you can)?

The Fight

"How to Stay Faithful in a Pressurized World"

John 17:15-19

This series has been about the fight to stay _____ in following Jesus.

Deceptive ideas...	▶	that play to disordered desires...	▶	that are normalized in a sinful society.
(the DEVIL)		(the FLESH)		(the WORLD)

The World - "that system of values, in any given age, which has at its center our fallen human perspective, which displaces God and his truth from the world, and which makes sin look normal and righteousness seem strange. It thus gives great plausibility to what is morally wrong and, for that reason, makes what is wrong seem normal." (David Wells)

How to Stay Faithful in a Pressurized World

We live in a _____ world (Romans 12:2)

NIV: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world."

J.B. Phillips: "Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold."

The Bible teaches that we are always in the process of being shaped or _____. The question is, will we be formed into the image of Christ or the image of the world?

1. Grow _____ (John 17:15,17)

2. Guard _____ (John 17:15-16)

3. Go _____ (John 17:18-19)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What would you prefer (if you had to choose one of the following modes of life): to live a hermit's life off the grid; to live in the center of a large, metropolitan city; or to live in a commune?
3. Read John 17:15-19. According to this passage, how is Jesus saying to live in relation to the world around us?

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?

