

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

“in but not of the world” examples

2 Corinthians 6

“¹⁴ **Do not be bound together with unbelievers;**

for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “*I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*” ¹⁷ Therefore, “*come out from their midst and be separate,*” says the Lord. “*And do not touch what is unclean;*” And I will welcome you. ¹⁸ “And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

In coming to Christ

- (1) Break attachments to this world lest you be defiled and suffer spiritual shipwreck.
- (2) Be aware that spiritual boundary issues can be both challenging and confusing.
- (3) Give attention to your thinking because worldliness starts in the mind.
- (4) **Learn from the examples of Jesus and the Apostles**

John 17

“¹⁵ I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

**“In” but not
“of” the world.**

John 17

“¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”



**“In” but not
“of” the world.**

**Jesus was the
model.**

The INCARNATION

Being in but not of the world did not mean “being popular with the world.”

John 1

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” vs.5

“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.” vs.9-10

Being in but not of the world was a way of enlightened thinking and relating.

✓ **Matt.4:1-11** - The temptation of Jesus
“On the other hand, it is written” vs.7

He defined reality and made decisions based on a mature understanding of Biblical revelation.

He demonstrated insight - thinking that went beyond superficial “proof texting.”

SUPERFICIAL KNOWLEDGE



**Rigid rules
Outward behavior
Focus on the external**

True wisdom



**Dynamic principles
A mind set
Focus on the internal**

Example

✓ **Matt.12:8-21** - Healing on the Sabbath
“it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath” vs.12

Enlightened thinking about the world’s traditions and the Kingdom’s agenda.

- non traditional worship, dress, style, etc.
- popular science,
- individualistic materialism,
- social justice and peace,
- holy nationalism,

Example

✓ **Matt.9:9-13** - He dined with tax collectors and sinners.

“But go and learn what this means: *‘I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,’* for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” vs.13

Enlightened thinking about radical grace (becoming a “friend of sinners”) and God’s holiness.

Example

✓ **Matt.26:42** - The Garden of Gethsemane
“My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

Enlightened thinking about God’s agenda and his own comfort.

- material and social sacrifice,
- risks of faith,

Example

✓ **Matt.21:12-13** - Cleansing the temple.

“It is written, *‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’*: but you are making it a robber’s den.” vs.13

Enlightened thinking about the secularization of the things of God.

- commercialized Christianity,
- a cultural relevant but spiritually insignificant church

Example

✓ **Matt.15:21-28** - The request of the Syrophenician woman.

“It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” vs.26

“O woman, ‘your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.’” vs.28

Enlightened thinking about the distinctive nature of the covenant community and true faith outside it.

Example

✓ **Matt.15:12-14** - Offending the Pharisees by violating the traditions of the elders.

“Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.” vs.14

Enlightened thinking about offending those who did not have an ear to hear.

- Be prepared to give an account of your hope to those who ask.
- Shake the dust off your feet and move on.

Example

✓ **Matt.17:27** - Offending the Pharisees by violating the traditions of the elders.

“But lest we give them offense, go to the sea, and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a stater, Take that and give it to them to you and Me.”

Enlightened thinking about some things not worth making an issue of.

Paul’s advice in relation to self

- 1) **Conscience Rom.14** “²² the faith which you have, have as your own conviction before god. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. ²³ But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **whatever is not from faith is sin.**”
- 2) **Control 1 Cor.6:12** “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but **I will not be mastered by anything.**”

Paul’s advice in relation to others

- 1) **Love Rom.14:15** “For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer **walking according to love.**”
- 2) **Not to cause a brother to stumble 1 Cor.8:13** “Therefore, if food **causes my brother to stumble**, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.”
- 3) **Not to cause an unbeliever to stumble 1 Cor. 10** “²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience sake. ²⁸ But if anyone says to you, ‘This is meat sacrificed to idols,’ **do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you**, and for conscience sake;”

- ✓ **1 Cor.6:1-6** Believers should not appeal to non-believers in legal disputes.
- ✓ **1 Cor.7:12-16, 39** Believers should not divorce non-believers or marry them.
- ✓ **Acts 16:3** Paul has Timothy circumcised “because of the Jews.”
- ✓ **Gal.2:11-14** Paul confronts Peter’s hypocrisy & lack of “straightforwardness.”
- ✓ **Acts 5:29** In preaching the Gospel we are to “obey God rather than man.”
- ✓ **1 Cor.9:19-23** Paul became all things to all men in order to win them to Christ.
- ✓ **1 Cor.14:22f** Unbelievers were addressed in Christian worship.

Wisdom requires that we respect some critical distinctions

- ✓ The **seeker** and the “closed minded”
- ✓ The **believer** and the unbeliever
- ✓ The **mature** Christian and the weak in faith
- ✓ The **core** issues and the minor issues
- ✓ The **church** and the state
- ✓ The **community** and the individual
- ✓ The **personal** and those who may not be like us.

How does the principle of “spiritual segregation” apply to us today?

- ✓ We are not to isolate ourselves from those outside the faith in our **daily lives** or even in our **worship services**.
- ✓ We are to clearly, and publicly define the boundaries of the “Christian family”
- **Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Membership, Marriage, Joint ministry, etc.**
- ✓ We are to maintain the boundaries of the church both in “**faith and conduct.**”
- ✓ We are to call people **from** the world to Christ **not in** the world to Christ.

How does the principle of “spiritual segregation” suffer abuse today?

- ✓ In fear, the “**fortress church**” walls itself from any meaningful contact with those outside the faith.
- ✓ In pride, the “**legalistic church**” is too often superficial in its “separateness.”
- ✓ In anger, the “**judgmental church**” seems to take joy in eagerly condemning all who are outside its walls.
- ✓ In ignorance, the “**worldly church**” is willing to tolerate anything but intolerance.

Acts 5

“²⁷ When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, ‘We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.’ ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered,

‘We must obey God rather than men.’”

1 Corinthians 5

“⁹ I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;

¹⁰ I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; **for then you would have to go out of the world.**

¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with **any so-called brother** if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler - not even to eat with such a one.”



Take your baptism seriously because

God does.

