

Teen Topics

Living in the World (Part 1)

Our world can present many opportunities and many challenges for a follower of Jesus Christ. In the lessons ahead, we will examine several Scriptural principles that we must take to heart as we live in the world. To begin, consider these biblical truths concerning the life God has given us.

Recognizing Our High Calling

As believers in Christ, we make up the church. The meaning of the word “church” refers to a group of individuals who have been “called out.” Followers of Christ have been chosen and redeemed by God Himself ([Eph. 1:4-6](#)), and have been given a high calling ([Phil. 3:14](#)) in which our lives are to bring glory to God ([Eph. 3:21](#); [5:27](#)). We are here, not to live for ourselves, but for the glory and honor of our Creator!

> How does our calling add significance to our lives? It gives clear meaning and purpose to our lives - we exist for God!

Understanding Our Place in the World

Jesus tells His followers, “You are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world” ([John 15:19](#); read [John 17:14-16](#)). Through faith in Christ, our citizenship (and thus identity) is with the family of God ([Eph. 2:19](#)). We are no longer identified with the world. We still live here, but we are just passing through ([1 Pet. 2:11](#)). For this reason, it can be said that we are “in” the world but not “of” the world.

> How should being “in not of” the world impact the way we live? Though we are a part of the society in which we live, our lives should be clearly different from those of the world.

We are not here to blend into our world, for our purpose gives us a higher calling. We are not to fit in, for our identity sets us apart! As believers, the lives we live must be different!