

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INTO THE WORLD

John 17:14-19; Romans 12:2

Stuart Jones - May 29, 2016



INTRODUCTION

While it's easier to live our lives surrounded by fellow Christians, we are faced with living in the world. Jesus knew this would be our situation when He prayed that His disciples (that would include you and me) would not be taken out of the world (John 17:15 NIV). Why did He pray this? Jesus didn't seclude Himself from the world because He knew those in the world needed Him.

How do we accomplish this same way of living without being changed? What we need to do is found in Romans 12:2 (MSG), "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out."

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Have you ever been in an unfamiliar place (different town, country, etc.) and felt like a complete stranger? Tell us about it.
2. As Christ followers should we feel like natives or strangers in this world?

EVALUATE IT

1. Read John 17:15. Why would Jesus ask the Father not to take His disciples out of the world? What significance does this hold for believers today?
2. Read John 17:18. Jesus' disciples already lived in this world, so what did He mean when He said He was sending them "into the world?" Did He send them out solo? Who became their family?
3. Read Romans 12:2. What is the "pattern of this world" to which we should no longer conform? How do we know what that pattern is?
4. How can someone live in a world with evil and temptation and not become a part of it? Hint: Paul recommends renewing our mind. How does someone renew their mind? How does renewing our minds transform us?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How do you view the church, as something you go to or attend or do you see the church as your family? Why?
2. Stuart said, "The next step is not to hunker down in the comfortable or hide away from the dangers and trappings of the world." Hunker down or hide, which one is more tempting to you? Why is neither option a good option?

ILLUSTRATION

Christianity was never meant to withdraw a man from life; it was meant to equip him better for life. Christianity does not offer us release from problems; it offers us a way to solve our problems.... The Christian must never desire to abandon the world; he must always desire to win the world.

- William Barclay

Thomas Aquinas, who knew a great deal about education and a bit about motivation, once said that when you want to convert a person to your view, you go over to where he is standing, take him by the hand, and guide him. You don't stand across the room and shout at him. You don't order him to come over where you are. You start where he is and work from that position. He said that's the only way to get people to budge.

-Alan Loy McGinnis, Bringing Out the Best in People



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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