



LIGHT OF THE
WORD

March 2010

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

“And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’” (Revelation 18:4).

How close can you get to the world without being burned?

Too often compromise rules our life. We put one foot in the world and one foot in the Spirit—and then do not understand why our lives are such a mess.

John tells us in the above verse to “come out of,” or to separate from the world. That doesn’t mean we can’t enjoy certain aspects of life, but it means that though we live in the world we are not to be ruled by the world. Our thought patterns, our values, and our actions should be ruled by Jesus Christ and not the culture we live in. As Christians, we are to be the salt of the earth and the light in the darkness. We are to influence the world—the culture around us. Yet too often, we are the ones being influenced by culture.

Believers need to live their Christian witness in business, politics, home, and community. That means that we need to live our lives according to a higher standard—God’s standard. And when we begin to compromise our faith with the cultural values that surround us we begin to go down a slippery slope that eventually will entangle us in sin and choke out the Word of God in our lives.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 says:

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.’”

Why is it so important not to be yoked to the world?

- To be cleansed - If I am in fellowship with God, then He is cleansing my heart.
- To be separate - When I am in God’s Word, it will help me to separate, or be set apart from the world. He will show me the difference between that which is light and that which is dark.
- To be dedicated - The more I am in God’s Word, prayer, and fellowship, the more dedicated I will be in my walk with Jesus Christ.

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In the same way, why is it important to separate ourselves from the world?

1. Our Lord Demands It

Throughout Scriptures, God tells us to separate ourselves from the world. Why? Because as believers, we are the temple of God. His Spirit resides in our heart and we cannot serve both God and the world. When we compromise with the world, we are violating God's holiness. We are yoked to the Lord and are told not to be unequally yoked to non-believers.

2. Our Influence Depends Upon It

If you are going to have a great testimony, you have to be different from what the world normally sees. It is a great influence to non-believers when they see that your behavior, attitudes, and speech are pure. They see that something is different about you when you are separate from the world. But when compromise infiltrates your life, it damages your influence on others. In fact, there is no greater way to chase people away from Jesus Christ than to act just like everyone else in the world.

3. Our Power Depends on It

God has said that He will dwell in us, walk with us, and empower us. When we separate ourselves from the world's standards, values, and culture and stay true to God's Word, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. His power enables us to share our faith and to stand strong in the midst of difficulties and trials. But when we compromise with the world, we reject God's power in our lives and open ourselves up to all kinds of sin and consequences.

Friends, the world is watching us. And they have seen far too many Christians behave just like everyone else. That is not what God has called us to do. He has called us to be separate and to stand strong on the Word of God. It's time that we stop compromising our faith, our values, our attitudes, our thoughts, and our actions with the corruption of the world.

Whether it's in your home, your business, your job, in your community, or in your school—you need to come out from among the world and cling to Jesus Christ.

Is the world influencing you or are you influencing the world?

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Steve". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of "Pastor" and "Steve" being prominent.

Pastor Steve