



# MESSAGE GUIDE

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

## LIVE NO LIES-7 THE THIRD ENEMY OF THE SOUL: THE WORLD



JOHN 18:36, 1 JOHN 2:15-17,  
JOHN 17:15-18, MARK 8:36

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We are in the seventh and final message in our series called, Live No Lies. We've been looking at the lies we're told by our culture that, when we believe them and live them out, they sabotage our peace and lead us down a path to some horrible consequences, and we've talked about the Three Enemies of the Soul: The Devil, The Flesh... and today were talking about the last enemy...The World.

### 1. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR "THE WORLD"?

When we say world, the word in the Greek has a few meanings on beauty, humanity, the universe. But when Jesus said "don't be of this world" he was referring to a *system of values and practices that normalize sin and oppose God's kingdom*. Together, these enemies (Devil, Flesh, World) work to pull us from the truth and disrupt the peace God offers.

Secular society is a society that believes there is no God. But the world is not just "no God," it is anti-God! This is how some Christian authors put it:

*"The world is a place where man reigns supreme, with the focus of nature as his only possible adversaries. Man is alone free and growing stronger. God is either non-existent or unconcerned. It is human initiative that makes history and is primarily by force that constellations change. Man can attain his own salvation (Abraham Joshua).*

*"Our cultural and social practices, that are under the control of Satan and, thus, opposed to God" (Dallas Willard).*

*"The world is Satan's domain, where his authority and values reign - though his deception makes that hard to realize... If you are of the world, it seems right" (Gerry Breshers).*

*"In this world, gratitude to the past and obligations to the future are replaced by a nearly universal pursuit of immediate gratification" (John Mark Comer).*



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John Mark Comer wraps up the ideas of *The Devil, The Flesh, and The World* like this: *“The world is a system of ideas, values, morals, practices, and social norms that are integrated into the mainstream and eventually institutionalized in a culture corrupted by the twin sins of 1) rebellion against God and the 2) definition of good and evil.”*

## 2. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT COMER’S CONCUSSION? WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES WHERE “REBELLION AGAINST GOD” AND “DEFINING GOOD AND EVIL” HAVE BEEN A RESULT OF THE “WORLD” SYSTEM?

When the world defines good and evil, it becomes mainstream and drives a society to ruin. But because we are a part of society and we find identity in our communities, many times our communities can lead us to identify in a way that is not from God but rather normalized, herd mentality of sin.

In our world we have redefined good and evil based on our preference:

- Lust is redefined as love.
- Marriage, not as covenant of lifelong fidelity, but rather a contract of personal fulfilment
- The objective of women’s sexuality through porn, as female empowerment.
- Exposure of children to grotesque content as education.
- Racism as a past issue.
- Greed, as responsibility to shareholders.
- Gross injustice of factory workers in the developing world as, globalism and capitalism.

Culture looks at all these concepts as a step towards being our truest self. In our society, we call it progress. So, how do we as Christians, become a light to our communities where so much evil has become normalized? Consider the questions Jesus asks in Matthew 16, *“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”* **(Matthew 16:26 NLT).**

*Jesus* isn’t talking about buying a house or making some money to take nice trip with your family, but rather being aware of the lure of the desires and distorted ways of the world. As Christian, the weight, grief, frustration and pain we feel when we see injustice or division is our souls screaming out that **YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE!**



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Jesus told Pilate this when he was on trial: *“My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom... But my Kingdom is not of this world”* (John 18:36 NLT). Note that he says “not earthly” which means not of the secular world, it doesn’t say not alive and present on earth. It means that our society and mainstream norms isn’t decided and changing, but rather based on something that is unchanging and consistent.

## 3. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING "IN THE WORLD" AND BEING "OF THE WORLD?"

Jesus, earlier in his prayer before being arrested said this *“Now I am coming to you (Father). I told them many things while I was with them in this world they would be filled with joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one...”* (John 17:13-15 NLT).

Three observations:

1. Jesus came to bring his kingdom and to bring joy.
2. Jesus identifies that the world hates his disciples because of their difference.
3. Jesus says he does not want them to leave, but rather keep them safe from the Devil.

Jesus is acknowledging that as a follower of Jesus, the very DNA of how we live and function is different than the world, and his prayer is that the lure of the world, from the evil one, would not affect them. Jesus continues, *“They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth”* (John 17:17-19 NLT).

Jesus is declaring that we Christians do not belong to this world as you he does not belong to the world. Jesus is saying because of his sacrifice that we are going to be remade, retooled, reworked and our literal spiritual DNA change, so that we are in a position that we feel foreign to this world.

“So, they can be made holy by your truth.” Holy means set apart and Jesus says that this comes from the Truth of the gospel... the Truth of Jesus... the Truth of God’s Word! Because for us to be present in this world, but not be of this world we must have a depth that is greater than anything we encounter day to day in the world.



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For example:

- When our coworkers start gossiping, we must be grounded in the truth, so we are not of this world.
- When we are tempted to cut the corner and do something sketchy, we must be grounded in the truth, so we are not of this world.
- When we are parenting our children and feel ourselves getting angry, we must be grounded in the truth, so we are not of this world and respond like Christ.
- When people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Jesus, rejoice and be glad because you are not of this world.

## 4. DO YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD? IN WHAT AREAS DO YOU NEED TO BE MORE GROUNDED IN THE TRUTH SO THAT YOU ARE NOT OF THIS WORLD?

When we first become believers, we are exposed to the gospel and believe we learn the basics of the gospel. But throughout the New Testament the writers urge believers to move past elementary ways and grow deeper into spiritual maturity.

***“Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn’t talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren’t ready for anything stronger. And you still aren’t ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature” (1 Corinthians 3:1-3, NLT).***

***“Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen” (2 Peter 3:18, NLT).***

***“Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church” (Ephesians 4:14-15, NLT).***

Spiritual maturity is how we can exist in the world... and avoid becoming “of it.”

Application: How do we grow in spiritual maturity to help us be in the world but not of the world?

***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2, NIV).***



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**# 1- Renewing of your mind.** This involves actively replacing worldly or negative thought patterns with thoughts grounded in God's Word. Such as:

- Replacing self-doubt with confidence in God's promises.
- Confronting fears with faith and trust in God's control.
- Seeing yourself and others through the lens of God's love and grace.

**# 2- Consistently engage with Scripture.** Immersing oneself in Scripture is essential to renewing the mind. This means reading, meditating on, and applying God's Word to daily life. By spending time with Scripture, we shape our values, ideas, and responses to align with God's will rather than societal influences.

**# 3- Practice gratitude and prayer.**

**#4- Be willing to be sent out.** We must be grounded in truth so we can be who God has called us to be to the world, Light. *"You are the light of the world...In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

**5. AT E91 WE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER TO BE A LIGHT TO OTHERS IN WHAT WE CALL, "NETWORKS AND NORMS." NETWORKS AND NORMS ARE THE PEOPLE AND SPACES THAT WE ENCOUNTER IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE. WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR NETWORK AND NORMS WHERE YOU CAN BE A LIGHT TO OTHERS?**

## NEXT STEPS:

- If you are ready to have a "renewing of mind" to help you live in the world but not of the world, text **"RENEW"** to 317-707-6462.
- If you would like to talk with someone about what it means to follow Jesus, text **"FOLLOW"** to the same number and we'll reach out to you. Or stop by the Next Steps Room, where people will gladly talk and pray with you.

