

Practical Steps – Living for Christ in an Upside Down World

John 17:14-19

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Two Basic Premises

1. The upside down world hates the Biblical Jesus.

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. Jn. 15:18

“The World”

- unbelieving
- a system of thought not based on God’s Word
- independent and contrary to God
- controlled by Satan

2 Cor. 4:4 – The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers.

... and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Jn. 17:14

Not “of the world”

- Jesus came from heaven
- God was His Father
- Jesus disregarded the man-made religious rules.
- His divine nature was not “worldly”

Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself... Heb. 12:3

2. The Upside Down World Hates the Biblical Christ-Follower

“70 million Christians have been killed for their profession of faith with 2/3 of those occurring after the start of the 20th Century.” John MacArthur Jr.

Persecution Complex

- Read into every trial as “I’m being persecuted.”
- Personality Issues
- Method or philosophy tensions
- Looking tensions for a fight

Biblical persecution -

- Hostility toward Core Beliefs of Christianity
- Pure lifestyle offends sinful lifestyle
Prov. 29:27... one whose way is straight is an abomination to the wicked.
- The light is hated by those who love sin. Jn. 3:19-20
- Hardness of heart toward God’s Word
(Rom. 1:18; Eph. 4:18)

In a majority of places, Christians...

- expect persecution
- endure persecution

- thrive under persecution
- see persecution as a privilege.

Offensive Core Beliefs

- Jesus is God
- Jesus is the only way to heaven
- Hell is real for those who reject Jesus
- the Bible is the Word of God
- All have sinned and deserve punishment

Former Rep. Michele Bachman (Minn.)
Family Research Council

- We want to bring in as many as we can because Jesus is coming soon.
- the Jewish state of Israel truly is a miracle of the hand of God.

The next thing Michele will do is start mixing those 55 gal. drums of poison-laced Koolaid containers and have old time revival for her followers. Drink up all you Bible thumping Christians! Michele and her husband are con artists, fakes and Charlatans.

So what should we do?

During one month in 2013 in Egypt

- 38 churches were destroyed
 - 2 churches were vandalized
 - 58 homes of Christians were burned
 - 85 shops of Christians were looted
 - 7 Christians were kidnapped
 - 6 Christians were killed.
 - Average of 100 Christians killed around the world every month
- David Platt – Counter Culture

1. Do not be troubled.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Jn. 14:1

“Troubled” – to shake or stir up; agitation; turmoil; unrest.

“Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you.” Jn. 14:27

“with God” – right relationship with Him Rom. 5:1

“of God” – inner rest and confidence in the storms Phil. 4:7

“Shalom” – 250 times in O. T.

-wholeness ; well being; prosperity; harmony.

Not as the world gives do I give to you.

(without troubles or trials; absence of conflict ;escapism)

Let not your hearts be troubled....

Peace, peace but there is no peace. Ezekiel 13:10

Neither let them be afraid.

I am ...

- not alone! I fear no evil for you are with me. Ps. 23:4
- loved! Perfect love casts out fear.

1 Jn. 4:18

- victorious ! Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.

1 Jn. 5:4

- following Jesus! ... let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matt. 16:24
- secure in His hands ... no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. Jn. 10:29

Peace!

God has forgiven the past
provided for the present
and guaranteed the future!

"We wait for God's answer, but as we wait, we work. We may be in the dark about our times, but we are not in the dark about God. Whatever the future holds, we are walking in the light with our Lord, so followers of Jesus must have the courage and the faith to work for a new renaissance in our time. So let there be no fear, nor alarmism, nor despondency, nor nostalgia. Instead, let us look up and so act with faith." Os Guinness

2. Pray

Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do... Jn. 14:12
And greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

Greater works?

- geographically
- numerically
- nationally
- diversity

Seven million Christians in Iran
(1 out of 10)

"You rarely hear about it in churches in the West, in the East or even in the Middle East. But the big, untold story is that more Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus Christ today than at any other time in history... Millions are finding that only Jesus Christ heals the ache in their hearts and the deep wounds in their souls." Joel Rosenberg – "Inside the Revolution"

Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (13)

Prayer bridges the gap between

- My need and His resources
- My problems and His solutions
- My pain and His healing
- My weakness and His power

If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it (14)
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Ps. 23:1

My God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19

In My Name

- Not a magic formula but consistent with His character and His purposes.
- Confirmation of your faith in Christ to gain access to God. Heb. 4:16

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you (15:7)
(oneness with Christ and His Word)

- ... ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. (7)
- No trial, hardship, situation is beyond prayer.
 - No person, relationship is beyond prayer.
 - No opposition, persecution or conflict is beyond prayer.
 - No temptation or attack from Satan is beyond prayer.

Until now, you have asked nothing in My name Jn. 16:24

Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (16:24)

Joy of the Lord!

- answered prayer!
- power to endure!
- wisdom to move forward!
- faith in His power!
- Holy Spirit is at work!

3. Rely on the Spirit of Truth.

And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper to be with you forever. Jn. 14:16

... even the Spirit of Truth (17)

- Source of truth (God Himself)
- Giver of truth
- Defends the truth
- Speaks the truth

- ... Whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him or nor knows Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (17)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Jn. 14:26

- Writers of the new Testament – inspiration
- All Christ followers – illumination

Without truth – No spiritual transformation is possible .

When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. Jn. 16:13

Great warning to us – In the last days

many false prophets

many false teachers

many false Christs Matt. 24:11

“The plain fact is, religion must die for mankind to live. The hour is getting very late to be able to indulge in having key decisions made by religious people, by irrationalists, by those who would steer the ship of the state not by a compass, but by the equivalent of reading the entrails of a chicken.” -Bill Maher

4. Abide in Him.

Abide in Me and I in you. Jn. 15:4

- Oneness - Follow closely
- Trust - Remain; continue
- Connected - Obey Him

Whoever abides in Me and I in Him, He it is that bears much fruit (5)

“The blind skier, wearing a bright pink vest, stayed directly behind an instructor, listening for directions on how and when to turn. Over the next several days I saw many blind skiers, invariably following the person who gave them the information they needed to make it safely down the mountain. Remaining or abiding in Jesus means following him in the same way.”

If I am not “abiding” in Christ then where am I “abiding?”

- materialism?
- cynicism?
- rebellion?
- selfishness?
- self-sufficiency?
- fear?

... for apart from Me you can do nothing. (5)

- No victory without abiding.
- No answers to prayer without abiding.
- No power from heaven without abiding.
- No understanding of truth without abiding.
- No ability to obey without abiding
- No lasting spiritual fruit without abiding.

As the Father has loved Me, so I have love you. (9).

Abide in My love -

- Not my love for Jesus, but his love for me.
- Know the truth – You are loved! Nothing can separate you from His love! Rom. 8:37-39

Revival! A condition when men give primary interest and attention to the things of God above their livelihood, above their intellectual pursuits, and above their social interests.

A terror of wrongdoing descends upon them. A passion for repentance seizes them.

A desire for salvation characterizes them. Men go on a search for God.”

Harold J. Ockenga