11/1/26 Sermon

How to Be a Christian in the World but Not of It

Key Scripture: 1 John 2:16

> *"For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."*

Action Item 1: Question Every Single Thing of This World

- **1 Thessalonians 5:21–22** — "Test everything. Hold onto the good. Avoid all evil."
- What is the standard of evaluation? **The Bible.**
- There are only two sources of life:
  - The Word
  - The World
- **2 Corinthians 10:4–5** — We are fighting on the spiritual level.
- When people don't want to change, they put up all sorts of rationalizations.
- **We need to question every single thing of this world.**

Action Item 2: Never Let Go of Your Convictions

- **Colossians 2:20** — If we died with Christ to the world, then why do we let others dictate to us?
- The people who've made the most impact were those who stuck to their **convictions**, not their **convenience**.
- Living for the approval of others causes immense pressure.
- To combat our need for instant gratification, we must look to eternity.

Action Item 3: Desire God the Most

- **1 John 2:15** — We are to love the world as God loves the world.
- God doesn't want us to love the values of this world.
- We cannot love God and love the values of the world at the same time. They are mutually exclusive.
- Most of us desire a relationship with God, but only give Him part of our heart.
- **Partial faithfulness is not faithfulness at all.** God wants our whole heart.
- **James 4:4** — Spiritual adultery makes us an enemy of God.

Action Item 4: Be a Positive Influence for God

- **Philippians 2:15–16** — "Live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world… shine out among them as beacon lights…"
- Rather than being influenced by the world, influence others for God.
- **Be a thermostat, not a thermometer.** Set the environment; don't let the environment control you.
- We may be the only Christian some people around us ever come in contact with (e.g., coworkers).
- More people are ready to hear the good news than Christians are willing to share it.
- The Christian life is the most logical and rational way to live.

Question for Reflection

Which of these action items does God want me to apply in my life?