



Being Separate from the World

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to mature Christians. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life.... for you are still controlled by your own sinful desires. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your own desires? You are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 3:1, 3 (NLT)

Prayer Focus: It seems Paul was being very direct and hard with his rebuke to believers in the Corinthian church. He said they were acting like babies and not like people who belonged to Jesus Christ. They were really not much different from the world, even though they had been called to be set apart in Christ. It was a much-needed correction. Paul would certainly have the right to issue the same rebuke to many in the Church today. Multiple surveys and research tell us that when it comes to our attitudes and lifestyles, those who profess to be Christians differ little from those who do not claim the name of Jesus Christ. This is not what we should expect if we are living in the truth of Jesus Christ as our Sanctifier—as our very life, strength, and wisdom. In fact, we should be broken and appalled over it! The envy, strife, and divisions that Paul mentions are only a few of the tell-tale signs that the Church is sick and will not be healed until it repents of being immature and worldly.

Day 1: Worship the Lord for His perfect holiness.

Day 2: Confess to the Lord the ways you have become like the world in your life and heart.

Day 3: Repent for yourself and on behalf of the Church for not looking dramatically different from the world

Day 4: Invite the Lord to stir a passion within you to live your life radically different from worldly influences.

Day 5: Pray that your church will be open to see the ways that it is immature and worldly.

Day 6: Pray that leadership in your church will invite the presence of Christ to cleanse any worldly influence.

Day 7: Pray that the name of Jesus Christ will be honored in your life and through the Church.