

Coming Out of the World

The Bible, our book of scripture (sacred writings) is filled with powerful **themes** - topics & examples & lessons that God wants us to **know** & to **think about**.

In the creation of the Holy Days, God wisely gives us a chance (every year) to dwell upon certain themes in our lives. In the spring Holy Days (that are just ahead of us) is one of the most powerful & most repeated themes that God provides to His children as we explore God's Plan of Salvation. It is a foundational idea that is introduced at the START of our Christian journey -- and it is something that is SO IMPORTANT to "get right".

Here are a few scriptures (without editorial content) to introduce the topic of today's sermon.

- **Exodus 12:42** - It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them **out of the land of Egypt**. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.
- **Exodus 13:3** - And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which **you went out of Egypt**, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand **the LORD brought you out** of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.
- **Exodus 13:8-9** - And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when **I came up from Egypt**.' It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that **the LORD's law** may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the **LORD has brought you out of Egypt**.
- **1 John 2:15-17** - **Do not love the world** or the **things** in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For ALL that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.



- **Revelation 18:2-4** - And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "**Babylon** the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." 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.**"
- **James 4:4** - Adulterers and adulteresses! **Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- **2 Corinthians 6:14-17** - 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."
- **Matthew 6:24** - "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.** (*ie wealth - the greedy pursuit of gain*)
- **John 15:19** - If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because **you are not of the world,** but **I chose you out of the world,** therefore the world hates you.
- **John 17:14-17** - 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 pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should **keep them from the evil one.** They are not **of the world,** just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify** them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
- **Romans 12:2** - And **do not be conformed to this world,** but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



What is “coming out of the world”? (what is it NOT?)

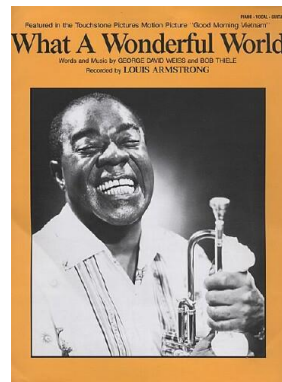
It is NOT that “*the planet is bad*” ... There are some great things about our world!

- **Gen 1:31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed **it was very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

(A couple songs listing *simple things* about the awesome creation)

I see trees of green ... Red roses too
I see them bloom ... For me and you
And I think to myself ... What a wonderful world

I see skies of blue ... And clouds of white
The bright blessed day ... The dark sacred night
And I think to myself ... What a wonderful world



Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favorite things ...
Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes
Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes
Silver-white winters that melt into springs

Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses
Rain pools in the woodland, water to my knees
Shivering, quivering, the warm breath of spring
Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses



- **Pro 30:18-19** - There are three things that **amaze me**—no, four things that I don't understand (*Blow my mind!*): how an eagle glides through the sky, how a snake slithers on a rock, how a ship navigates the ocean, how a man loves a woman.
- **Ecc 3:12-13** - I know that there is nothing better for men than to **be happy and to do good** as long as they live. And I know that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his work. It is the gift of God.

However...

- **Jer 17:9-10** "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, **search** the heart, I **test** the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Some people seek to change & better themselves... Some people are just wicked -- avoid them!

- **Gen 6:5-6** Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, & that **every intent** of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. & the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, & He was grieved in His heart.
- **Pro 4:14-17** Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. For **they do not sleep** unless they have done evil; & their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, & drink the wine of violence.
- **Isa 32:6-7** For the foolish person will speak foolishness, And his heart will work iniquity: To practice ungodliness, To utter error against the LORD, To keep the hungry unsatisfied, And he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. Also the schemes of the schemer are evil; He devises wicked plans To destroy the poor with lying words, Even when the needy speaks justice.
- **Act 13:10** & (*Paul*) said, "O full of all deceit & all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

What is "coming out"?

The **doctrine of separation**, also known as the **doctrine of non-fellowship**, is a scriptural belief among some Christian groups that the members of a church should **be separate** from "the world" and not have association with those who are "of the world".

- **Eph 5:11** And have **no fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

For Example:

1. **Noah** and his family separated themselves from the sinful world and were saved from the flood (Genesis 6-9).
2. God called **Abraham** out of his homeland and away from idolatry (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. **Lot** was separated from the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19).
4. **Israel** was called to be a holy nation, set apart from the surrounding nations (Exodus 19:5-6).
5. **Samuel** was dedicated to God from birth and served as a prophet and judge in Israel (1 Samuel 1-3).
6. **Daniel** and his friends refused to compromise their faith while in Babylonian captivity (Daniel 1-6).
7. **John the Baptist** lived in the wilderness & preached repentance & baptism (Matthew 3).
8. The early **Christians** were called to be separate from the world and to live according to God's standards (Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 2:9-12). (Hopefully we follow their example!)
9. The book of Revelation speaks of a group of people who are sealed by God and are separate from the rest of the world (Revelation 7).
10. The Sabbath was given as a sign (Exodus 31) to identify "**God's people**" from "**not God's people**"



What kind of things do we need to be separate about?

- ❖ **Mental Life:** Thoughts, reading, attitudes
 - ❖ **Physical Life:** Dress, physical contact, entertainment, speech
 - ❖ **Social Life:** Friendships, courtship, career
 - ❖ **Spiritual Life:** Personal devotional life, fellowship with other Christians, the Church
- **1Cor 10:20-21** Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, & I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord & the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table & of the table of demons.
 - **1Ti 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

What might we do to help a Brother or Sister or ourselves? *Talk! Deep fellowship...*

- **Prov 27:17** As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.
- **Jas 5:15-16** And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (*ie Acknowledge your slip-ups, challenges, lapses or falls - when appropriate*)

Why?

- Jud 1:23 (*Ignore mockers ...*) but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.
- Jas 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.
- 1Pet 4:14-16 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.



Why see this movie? Your brain (mind) is a “closet never cleaned out!”

Can I approach a sister to ask her if this “gore” is Christian viewing?

Coming out of the World is ... ?

Action... You are *doing something*... not being passive... not a leaf afloat on the water

Lots of words come to mind ... Work, effort, deeds ... not just “thinking hard” on a subject!

Ultimately, the concept of "coming out of the world" means to separate oneself from the sinful practices and values of the world and to live according to God's will. It does not necessarily mean withdrawing from society altogether, but rather living in the world while not being of the world.

Yes, Jesus wants His people to “come out from among them and be separate.” That means...

1. that we should be separate from participation in sin.
2. we are to be separate from professing believers who are living in sin.

Beyond that,

3. Christians are called to not get involved in entangling relationships with unbelievers, which would lead to compromise (and thus being “yoked” with an unbeliever).

Balancing that ... is the biblical understanding that we cannot completely remove ourselves from the world of unbelievers, **as that would cause us to lose all influence.**

- **1Pe_3:15** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, & always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness & fear;

Some believe ... the 20th century was marked by believers **being so separate from the world** that there was **not enough interaction with it**, the 21st century may be marked by Christians being so involved with the world that it is **hard to tell the difference** between the two.

Either way, evangelism is hampered.

There must be a **balance** that cannot be summarized by a set of “dos and don’ts.” Every Christian has to decide ...

- if he or she is **influencing the world?**
- ... or if **the world is influencing him or her?**

... and then make choices accordingly.



What are some ways to examine yourself ... to see if you are in the faith?

1. **Self-examination:** It is essential to examine yourself to see if you are truly living out your faith. This means asking yourself if you are truly following the teachings of Jesus Christ, such as loving others, forgiving those who have wronged you, and treating others with respect & compassion.
2. **Fruit of the Spirit:** Galatians 5:22-23 outlines the fruit of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If you see these qualities in your life, it is a good sign that you are in the faith.
3. **Relationship with God:** Your relationship with God is an essential aspect of your faith. If you are regularly reading the **Bible**, **praying**, attending **church**, and seeking to live a life that honours God, it is a good indication that you are in the faith.
4. **Obedience to God's Word:** As a Christian, it is important to obey God's commands as outlined in the Bible. If you are living a life that seeks to obey God and follow His commands, it is a good indication that you are in the faith.
5. **Love for others:** Jesus taught that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39). If you are living a life of love and compassion towards others, it is a good indication that you are in the faith.
6. **Trust in Jesus:** As a Christian, your faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of your beliefs. Examining yourself to see if you truly trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior is a crucial part of determining if you are in the faith.
7. **Transformation:** If you are in the faith, you should be experiencing transformation in your life. This includes a change in your thoughts, attitudes, behaviours, and character as you grow in your relationship with God.
8. **Spiritual gifts:** God gives spiritual gifts to believers to serve others and build up the church (1 Corinthians 12). Examining yourself to see if you are using your gifts to serve others is a good indication that you are in the faith.
9. **Joy and peace:** As a Christian, you should have a deep sense of joy and peace that comes from your relationship with God. Examining yourself to see if you have this joy and peace in your life is a good indication that you are in the faith.
10. **Perseverance:** The Christian life is not always easy, and believers will face trials and difficulties. Examining yourself to see if you are persevering through these challenges with the help of God is a good indication that you are in the faith.

11. **Repentance:** Repentance is a crucial aspect of the Christian faith. Examining yourself to see if you are regularly confessing your sins to God, turning away from sin, and seeking to live a life of righteousness is a good indication that you are in the faith.
12. **Compassion** for the marginalized: Jesus spent much of his ministry reaching out to and showing compassion to those who were marginalized in society. Examining yourself to see if you have a heart for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized is a good indication that you are in the faith.
13. **Humility:** As a Christian, it is important to have a humble attitude towards God and others. Examining yourself to see if you are regularly seeking to serve others and put their needs before your own is a good indication that you are in the faith.
14. **Community:** Christianity is not a solitary faith, but one that is lived out in community with other believers. Examining yourself to see if you are regularly participating in a community of believers, building relationships with others, and serving others in that community is a good indication that you are in the faith.
15. **Fruitful life:** examining yourself to see if your life is bearing fruit for God's kingdom is a good indication that you are in the faith. This can include sharing the gospel with others, serving others in need, and using your gifts and talents to make a positive impact in the world.
16. **Hunger** for God's Word: As a Christian, it is important to have a hunger for God's Word, the Bible. Examining yourself to see if you are regularly reading, studying, and meditating on the Bible is a good indication that you are in the faith.
17. **Gratitude:** Gratitude is a crucial aspect of the Christian faith. Examining yourself to see if you are regularly expressing gratitude to God for His blessings in your life is a good indication that you are in the faith.
18. **Forgiveness:** Forgiveness is another crucial aspect of the Christian faith. Examining yourself to see if you are regularly forgiving those who have wronged you, just as God has forgiven you, is a good indication that you are in the faith.
19. **Witnessing & being an example:** As a Christian, it is important to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Examining yourself to see if you are regularly sharing your faith with others, whether through words or actions, is a good indication of faith.
20. **Trust in God's sovereignty:** Finally, examining yourself to see if you trust in God's sovereignty, even in difficult circumstances, is a good indication that you are in the faith. This means trusting that God is in control and has a plan, even when things don't go as we expect or hope.