

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

In John chapter 14 and verse 6, Jesus made one of the most staggering statements ever made. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Now that's a bold statement. A statement so bold, that it has generated great hostility. In fact, the hostility that the words of Jesus created has led to hatred. It was the Apostle John who said, "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you" (1 John 3:13). The world does not love the Christian. The world's system is totally against the teaching found in John 14:6. Therefore, the church can never find peace in this anti-God system that is headed by Satan himself.

Yet, with many, their worship is catered to attract the world. It is all about doing things that will lure the un-churched into their services. Christian performers adopt worldly fads in their music. Preachers act as if they are entertainers. And what makes this so horrifying is that preachers are terrified that the offense of the gospel might turn someone against them. So they, on purpose, omit the parts of the message the world might not like.

The church is going to great lengths to try and convince the world that they can be as broad-minded as the most gifted politician. And this quest for the world's approval is nothing less than spiritual harlotry. The church has forgotten the words of James: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

When the church courts the world system and its anti-God philosophy, the church has abandoned its purpose. To him that knows to do good and doesn't do it, to him it is sin. The church (the true church) knows that this is wrong. They know that God is not pleased. They know deep down in their being that God is not honored. Yet they seek the world's approval. Satan, as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), has worked this deception with great success.

One writer said, "There is and always has been a fundamental, irreconcilable incompatibility between the church and the world. Christian thought is out of harmony with all the world's philosophies. Genuine faith in Christ entails a denial of every worldly value. Biblical truth contradicts all the world's religions. Christianity itself is therefore antithetical [in direct opposition] to virtually everything the world admires."

Jerry W. Arnold
All Rights Reserved
November 2010