

Different to Make a Difference

John 17:13-19

August 2, 2026

Christians are the salt and light of their culture.

We are different to make a difference.

What is the “joy” of Jesus? v. 13

What is the joy of Jesus? (See also John 15:11)

How do you define joy?

True and lasting joy is walking with God!

Should Christians view the world negatively? v. 14

What does “κόσμος” (kosmos) mean?

Why does the world hate us?

Is Pastor Mark a southerner?

Can a Christian be worldly?

What does Jesus pray for, and what does He not pray for? v. 15

Jesus asks that we be preserved from the evil one.

Challenging kids with difficult things.

Living the antithesis. v. 16

What is the antithesis? Welcome to Dangerville!

We are in the world, but not of the world.

How does God sanctify us? v. 17

How does God protect us from the evil one?

What is our mission in this world? v. 18

Why did Jesus consecrate Himself? v. 19

What are a few mistakes in interacting with the world?

God desires our sanctified engagement with the world.

Meditation

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for My sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you” (Matt. 10:16–20).

In a day when Christians have all but lost the culture war in American—and the prospect of the persecution of true believers is imminent—it is incumbent on us to listen carefully to what the Savior told His disciples upon their first missionary journey. In the ancient wartime manual, *The Art of War*, Sun Tzu explained, “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.” In Matthew 10:16–20, Jesus is essentially giving His disciples His manual of spiritual warfare for the mission of God...

No one knows how intense the opposition to biblical Christianity will get in our country in the days, weeks, months, or years to come. Nevertheless, we should have great confidence that Christ sends His people out in the midst of persecuting wolves to bring the everlasting gospel to bear on a lost and perishing world. Christ does not call us to retreat, to compromise in the name of caution, or to devise other methods and strategies that will counter the preaching of the gospel. He does not call us to worldly sophistication or political maneuvering. Rather, He calls us to learn about our enemies and about ourselves—and to spread the aroma of Christ through the world by the ministry of the Word for the salvation of the elect. To this end, He bids us understand that we are like *sheep* in the midst of *wolves*, so that we will seek to be wise as *serpents* and gentle as *doves*.

Nick Batzig