

Discipleship

The Most Fundamental Concept

John 17.1-23

- A. We are in the world by the will of God.
17.1-15
- B. But we are not “out of” the world, and cannot be like the world. 17.16-23
- C. This reality has produced a great deal of tension in the Church.

Two actions are forbidden us

- A. One is an attempt to escape from this world
 1. We cannot—Biblically—preserve our holiness by escaping the world
 2. Which, I would propose, is something that Fundamentalism has attempted to do. And the contemporary Church is critical of us for being “out of touch”
 3. But not just Fundamentalism: this is the mentality that drove much of the monastic (root idea: “mono,” being alone) movement

B. The other is conformity to the world

1. We cannot contaminate our holiness by becoming like the world around us
2. Which, I would propose, is something that has infected the contemporary Church movement. And Fundamentalism's criticism of the movement is that it's "worldly."
3. But this isn't just a modern issue—its one as old as the people of God.

One of the major themes of the Bible is our relationship to the visible and material world

It is addressed in the Law

- A. Leviticus 18.3-4
- B. Leviticus 18.24
- C. Deuteronomy 4.6
- D. Deuteronomy 18.9

It is addressed in the prophets

- A. Jeremiah 10.2
- B. Ezekiel 11.12
- C. Ezekiel 23.30
- D. Ezekiel 25.8
- E. This is the story of the Jews: they were commanded to NOT BE like the nations; they DID become like the nations; they were delivered over TO the nations for judgment.

It is addressed by Jesus

A. Matthew 6.8

B. Luke 12.30

C. John 1.10

D. John 3.19

It is addressed by the apostles

A. Romans 12.1-2

B. I Peter 1.15-16