

personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Bible verse of the week

John 17:6-19

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by ^[c] that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world



In the world but not of the world

This past Sunday, we talked about what it means to be "in" the world but not "of" the world. We said that it is a common phrase many Christians use when dealing with things in their culture such as the art, music, ideas, and movies. But what does it mean?

We started with Jesus' prayer for His Disciples in **John 17** where He talks about them being in the world but not of the world just as He is in the world but not of it.

We said that once we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior and receive the Holy Spirit, we are no longer 'of' the world but are set apart from it. Our spirit is renewed and the Holy Spirit lives within us even while we still must physically live in this world.

We looked at Paul as an example, on his way to Damascus, his spirit was reborn even as his body physically remained in the world. This completely and dramatically changed the way he lived in the world (even changed his name).

We said that in order to follow Jesus' command to "make disciples of all nations" we must sometimes be involved in and participate in the world even though our hearts are no longer a part of it.

Of course, we always look to Jesus as our example and said that He never removed himself from the culture of His day. Jesus was fully engaged in all aspects of the culture, meeting people where they were, being a friend to those in need, loving all people regardless of their perceived righteousness by others. BUT, as He engaged His culture, He never left the will of His Father. He always kept God as His focus in everything He did. (**John 5:19**)

We said that while we engage with our culture we should filter everything we say or do through our relationship with Jesus, we should experience everything in the world through our Jesus filter.

We read **1 Corinthians 9** where Paul talks about becoming like whoever it is he is addressing for the sake of sharing the Gospel. We asked what was the point of becoming like the people you're telling about Jesus. Very simply, they are more likely to trust you and to

any more than I am of the world.¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.¹⁷ Sanctify them by [d] the truth; your word is truth.¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

listen to you than if you just run around screaming at them from your self-righteous high horse like some do.

We discussed a few more stories, both in the Bible and in present day example as well, that showed us how to be engaged with culture in order to successfully share Jesus while keeping our Jesus filter on. In each instance we pointed out that the focus was always on God and on sharing the gospel, to be in the world but not of it.

We said that obviously, you need to have a strong foundation of faith so that you are not drawn away from God's truth by the world's culture, always keeping God as your focus and the Holy Spirit as your guide helps you stay on what God wants.

You also need a trusted "inner-circle" of close, like-minded friends who can help support and protect you while also holding you accountable for your actions to help keep you on the right path. Even if you have just one of these special friends, it can make all the difference as you interact with the world around you.

We said that it's very easy to give the appearance of avoiding worldly pleasures, as many Christians do, but while still having worldly attitudes in your heart, as again many Christians do. But, it is also very possible, like Jesus did, to love sinners and spend time with them so that they trust you all while maintaining a focus on God and a commitment in your heart to the values of God's Kingdom.

We said that as you live in this world and engage in its culture, you can expect to be tempted by the ways of the world and you also can expect to be challenged by others to defend your own faith. The enemy continues to use the very same method he used in the Garden to get us to doubt our faith in God and His promises.

You must be prepared for both by studying God's word (to know the truth), by always following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and by having a strong inner-circle of trusted friends and advisors who can help support you and protect you.

In the coming weeks, we will be going through some challenges you may face from living in the world and we are requesting specific questions you may have or have received from others.

This week's question: How can an all loving God send people to Hell? The quick answer is that He doesn't. God is patient and does all He can to keep us from spending eternity in Hell even to the point of sacrificing His own Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins and save us from going to Hell. We actually send ourselves to Hell by not accepting His gift of salvation in believing in His Son Jesus Christ.

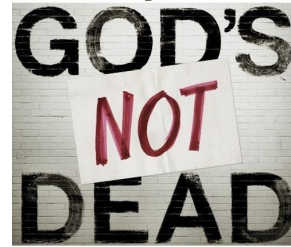
First Friday Youth Movie Night

Join us at LWA on November, 5th, at 6:30pm
for Youth Movie Night!

The movie will be the 2014 movie, "God's NOT
Dead". For youth, grades 7-12, friends and families.

Rated PG

1 Youth Movie Night

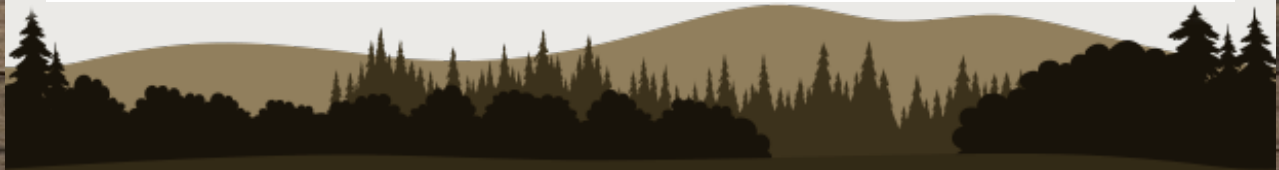


November 5th at 6:30

Rated PG

Freshman university student Josh Wheaton attends a philosophy class, where Professor Radisson requires all students to submit a signed statement stating "God is dead" and never existed. When Josh refuses because of his own beliefs, the professor challenges him to defend his position, which leads to a series of confrontational presentations between himself and the professor, with the class as jury.

[See Trailer Here](#)



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