

Influence

John 17:14-21

08/02/2020

Jesus leaves us here in this world to be a Godly influence on this world that is trying to be an ungodly influence on us.

The term “world” is used in Scripture in three different ways:

- ✓ The world God created – *“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth...”* (Acts 17:24)
- ✓ The people God created – *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)
- ✓ The system Satan created – *“For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires...”* (1 John 2:16-17a)

I. We are to be an influence on this world (Matthew 5:13-16)

II. We are not to be influenced by the world (Romans 12:1-2)

“In every aspect of the religious life, American faith has met American culture – and American culture has triumphed.” (Alan Wolfe)

So What?

- One response is to **retreat** into the protective bubble of a Christian subculture. (Spiritual distancing)
- Another response is to pray and wait for another **revival** of wide proportions.
- A third response is to attempt to **recapture** America for God at the ballot box.
- A fourth response is to **rejoin** culture hoping they will join us if we join them. (Bridge building)
- A better response is to take the best of all four and aim for spiritual **renewal**.