

## Friends with the World?

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by Wayne Goff

***“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” James 4:4.***

James, the Lord’s brother, set forth many fundamental truths in his brief epistle. None of them can be ignored with impunity. Yet today some Christians are trying their best to be “faithful” while “fitting in” with the world. It cannot be done. It could never be done – not 2,000 years ago, nor today. Christians who want to “fit in” with the world will have to “compromise” their faith, and in doing so will lose their soul!

Keep in mind that “*the world*” in James 4:4 is that “evil mass of humanity that stands in rebellion to God.” We are not talking about enjoying life or this world’s blessings. God gave us those for our benefit and enjoyment. We are talking about the rebellious mass of humanity who seems bent on doing everything contrary to the will of God.

Have we forgotten our original calling by God through the gospel? “*Church*” means “the called out” doesn’t it? “Called out” of the world and into a spiritual, moral relationship with Jesus Christ!

Jesus called Paul to be an apostle and sent him to “*open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me*” (Acts 26:18).

To the Corinthians Paul wrote: “*Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you*” (2 Cor. 6:17). Our relationship with God as sons and daughters (v. 18) is dependent upon being separate from the world!

Of the apostles Jesus said to the Father, “*I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one*” John 17:14-15.

Are things different today? **Absolutely not!**

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