

High School Sunday School – March 21, 2009
Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ
Lesson 5 – Are You Available?
Part 2: “In the World, But Not of the World”¹

1. **Review:** A reminder of our “Evangelism Diagnosis” (Are you MOTIVATED, EQUIPPED, AVAILABLE) and our commitment to pray for two specific people.
2. **A biblical tension:** How can the Bible teach us that God loves the world and at the same time teach us that we should not?
 - John 3:16
 - 1 John 2:15
3. **What are the dangers of believing only one of these truths?**
4. **How does John 17 teach us to believe both truths at the same time?**
5. **So what about the world should we not love? Even hate?**
 - A. Everything about human civilization that is actively hostile to God and alienated from God.
 - B. Everything that tempts us to exalt ourselves and forget God.
 - C. Everything that makes sin seem normal and righteousness seem strange.

¹ This lesson draws heavily from *Worldliness*, C.J. Mahaney, ed. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008), 15-35 & 139-171, and from *Speaking of Jesus*, J. Mack Stiles (Downer’s Grove, IL: IVP, 1995), 162-170

6. So how are we supposed to love the world?

A. We are called to enjoy the world!

- The creation declares God's glory (Ps. 19:1).
- Creation is God's gift (1 Tim. 4:4-5).

B. We are called to engage the world!

- God has given us a "creation mandate" to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:26-31; also 9:1).
- Everything we do – including our school, work, relationships, leisure, *everything* – is to be done for God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31)

C. We are called to evangelize the world!

- All Christians are called to be God's witnesses (Acts 8:1-4, 11:19-21).
- Our words are witnesses to God's word, and how we live impacts our witness (Matt. 5:13-16).

7. The Biblical metaphor for being in the world but not of the world: we are *ambassadors* of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). So what?

A. Ambassadors are public people. They know their actions can discredit their message. So they act in ways to give credit and weight to the message they carry. **What does this mean for us?**

B. Ambassadors avoid disqualifications. Certain things can disqualify an ambassador (for example, if the ambassador joins a foreign power). **What does this mean for us?**

C. Every ambassador, at some time, must deliver hard words: issue warnings, defend actions, give understanding. He or she cannot alter or refuse to relay the message. **What does this mean for us?**

D. An ambassador must be diplomatic. It's not just what we say but how we say it. **What does this mean for us?**

8. How do you struggle to be an ambassador for Jesus? Do you love the world in wrong ways? Do you fail to love the world at all? How does this affect your availability to share the good news of Jesus?