

# *Living Before the World*

## **I Peter 2:11-12**

I Peter 6

### **Introduction**

We are living in the world, but we are not to be of or like the world. We are to be candles.

Candles are NOT light. Candles shine the light. They are lamps. Lamps are NOT light. They are ways to shine light.

Jesus is the light. We are the lamps He uses to shine His light. Jesus is the light. We are the lamps.

How are we to live in this world?

**(Read I Peter 2:11-12)**

### **I. As Sojourners Or Pilgrims**

We live in a godless culture. As a result we, as Christians. Are told to distance ourselves from that culture.

How are we doing?

How is the modern church doing?

I fear that in our effort to “save” people we are sending them to hell.

If a church is no different from the world, it has lost its light. If there is not light to shine on sin, there will be no need seen to repent of that sin.

No repentance = no salvation.

We are not to be like the world, and we are not to seek to be like them.

## II. Fleshly Lusts

These are earthly values and earthly possessions.

We are called upon to get rid of the earthly things that lead us to sin. We are to replace those things.

With what?

## III. Loving Conduct

Our actions should be so loving and so full of integrity that they can win over unbelievers by the evidence of Jesus' work in our lives.

I Peter 1:15, 17- ***Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy. ... You call him Father, when you pray to God, who judges all people by the same standard, according to what each one has done; so then, spend the rest of your lives here on earth in reverence for him.***

I Peter 3:2, 16- ***... they will see how pure and reverent your conduct is. ... but do it with gentleness and respect. Keep your conscience clear, so that when you are insulted, those who speak evil of your good conduct as followers of Christ will become ashamed of what they say.***

Matthew 5:16- ***...your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.***

In other words, we should let the love of Jesus shine through us and through our actions.

This difference from the world will draw people to Jesus.

## **Conclusion**

A worldly Christian and a worldly church may seem to be successful, but they are not.

Numbers are not the bottom line in Christianity.

The bottom line in Christianity is the work of the Holy Spirit. His work is not only shown in souls being won, but in the spiritual growth of those souls.

Folks, if there is not spiritual growth happening, there is no Holy Spirit. If there is no Holy Spirit, there is no salvation.

It does not matter how big your numbers are, how many you have baptized, or how big your facilities or your ministry is.

And the Holy Spirit works through us.

**(Read vs. 11-12)**

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Jesus is the light. We are the \_\_\_\_\_. He uses to shine His light. Jesus is the light. We are the lamps.

## **I. As Sojourners Or Pilgrims**

We live in a \_\_\_\_\_ culture.

No repentance = no \_\_\_\_\_.

## **II. Fleshly Lusts**

We are called upon to get rid of the earthly things that lead us to \_\_\_\_\_.

## **III. Loving Conduct**

(I Peter 1:15, 17; 3:2, 16; Matthew 5:16)

Our actions should be so loving and so full of integrity that they can win over unbelievers by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' work in our lives.

## **Conclusion**

A worldly Christian and a worldly church may seem to be successful, but they are not.

\_\_\_\_\_ are not the bottom line in Christianity.

The bottom line in Christianity is the work of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Folks, if there is no spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ happening, there is no Holy Spirit.

**Possible Answers:** Holy Spirit, salvation, like, not, sin, growth, evidence, lamps, godless, numbers