

SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE WORLD

This lesson is to help us understand the right way of living in the world without being partakers of what the world system is all about. Is there a balance and a consistency we can have as believers in the world and still influence people for the Lord without the world influencing believers for wickedness?

WHY BELIEVERS HAVE OPPOSITION

John 15:18-21 If we are true followers and believers in Christ He promised we would have opposition because He had opposition.

Luke 21:12-13 Jesus told the disciples that they would go through much persecution. Our testimony before the world should be that we gladly will suffer whatever persecution comes to us for Jesus sake.

II Timothy 3:10-12 Paul warns us just as Jesus warned of persecutions coming to “all those who will live godly in Christ Jesus.” Why don't we hear of many Americans suffering persecution?

WHERE OPPOSITION COMES FROM

Matthew 10:35-36; John 1:11 The primary source of opposition to believers who walk by faith and walk in the Spirit will come from those closest to you; family, friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Galatians 4:29; I John 2:15-17 There will always be opposition from the unsaved world, the two families have never gotten along and it is a sure thing that they never will.

Ephesians 2:1-3; I Peter 5:8 Believers will have constant opposition from Satan and his demons.

HOW TO HANDLE OPPOSITION

Romans 12:17-18; Proverbs 15:1 Be a good worker, a good neighbor and avoid arguments and when confronted give a godly, kind word instead of an ugly rebuke.

Ephesians 6:11-18 Without the use of God's armour to fight off the enemy we have no chance.

Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:14, 20-21 Pray for those who will oppose you. Do good to those who will despise and abuse you.

Proverbs 13:20; I Corinthians 15:33 Keep good company with other believers and do not have fellowship with unbelievers.

HOW THE OPPOSITION SHOULD SEE BELIEVERS

II Corinthians 6:14-18 The believers lifestyle should be that of separation from unsaved people and our behavior should appear peculiar to them.

II Corinthians 8:20-21 In all matters pertaining to unbelievers, believers should be blameless and honest to show exceptional character and a godly testimony before the world.

Philippians 2:14-15 Our dealings with the world and with each other must be so different that believers will be seen as standing out from the rest of the world. Believers must shine the light of God!

HOW BELIEVERS SHOULD SEE THE OPPOSITION

Hebrews 11:13; I Peter 2:11-12 Believers are to see themselves as pilgrims and are to see the world as a strange place where we are to glorify God and not ourselves.

I Corinthians 3:9-15 Believers should see the opposition (the world) as the place where we are to labor for Christ and work for the next phase of our Spiritual life in the Kingdom of Christ the King.

