

STARTING HYPHENS STARTING HYPHENS

YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

SPIRITUALITY IN YOUR PROFESSION



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The world:

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. We are not called to love the world.

1 John 2:15-16

- Romans 12:2 tells us not to conform to the pattern of this world. We are not called to identify with, agree with, be like this world.
- Mark 8:36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? We are not called to gain the whole world.
- Titus 2:11-12 teaches us to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions. We are not called to want worldly things. (1 John 2:16)
- In James chapter 4, James says twice: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. We are not called to be a friend of the world.

So does that mean we have to run off and hide somewhere from this world?

Let's discuss two commandments that are the foundation of this topic:

In Matthew 22:36-40, an expert in religious law tried to trap Jesus with one question: Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?

Our place in this world hangs on these two commandments: Love God and Love Others. We just talked about what we are not called to do in this world. Let's look at these two commandments more in depth & see what we are called to do in this world because of these two commandments:



Love God

- Colossians 3:16-17 16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.
- We are called to represent Christ in everything we do. Because we love God, we represent Him in everything we say or do.
- You are a representative of God in this world!
- Your profession is a calling and you represent Christ when you do it.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

I Corinthians 10:31

In this chapter, Paul is teaching how to handle situations without offending others, such as eating food that had been offered to idols. After he explains how to navigate this situation, he simply concludes it with this statement: So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12:26

We are called to do everything for the glory of God.

- We are called to serve God and follow Him.
- God has placed you in your job and you serve Him in your career.
- In everything we do *ask people's professions or parts of the job*

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Jesus says this when He is teaching us to be salt and light in the world. We are called to be a light in this world so that people see our good deeds because that glorifies God!
- Anytime you are doing good in the world, you are glorifying God.



Love Others

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34

Judas had just left to betray Jesus and Jesus is telling His disciples He is only going to be with them for a little while longer. We are called to love one another and by this everyone will know that we are disciples of Jesus.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

I John 4:7-12

No one has ever seen God so how are we going show people this God we have never seen? We love one another. We are called to love one another. We display God in us when we love one another.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:9

We are called to love one another sincerely (not "I love them because I have to"). We are called to be devoted (loyal, faithful) to each other in love. We are called to honor one another above ourselves.

Okay, so now that we have established our place in this world, which is built on the foundation of loving God and loving others, let's look at practical ways we can fulfill our calling to love God and others in our professional lives.



Represent God

God loves every single person you have ever encountered. Isn't that amazing? Every single person. The person you talk to on the phone, your coworker, your customer, your patient, your boss, etc. So how can I represent God when I am spending time with one of His children?

I love them.

- We have covered the topic of love a lot tonight, but it is truly the foundation of how we are supposed to treat others.
- It may be difficult with some people, but when you are with those people, think: This is God's child. How would He want me to treat them?

I care for them.

- When we love others, we care about them. In some of our professions, we might even care for them. We care about what happens to them.
- Most people just need someone to care and listen. To show them a love that they have never seen or experienced before, which is the love of Christ. If you are that person, you can point them to Christ.

I pray for them.

- This is so important: pray for your coworkers, clients, patients, bosses, students, etc.
- We underestimate the power of prayer: James 5:16 The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Patients are walking into a hospital room where an apostolic medical professional has prayed for healing. Students are walking into classrooms where an apostolic teacher has prayed for understanding and patience. Clients are walking into law offices where an apostolic lawyer has prayed for wisdom in cases. People are contracting with apostolic business owners that have prayed for growth in their companies and that will deal with their customers with honesty. The list could go on and on.



People don't understand what they are working with when they work with us. They aren't just getting you and your job title, they are getting you who prays for your patients, students, and coworkers. You, who prays for wisdom in treatments and who prays for healing, etc.

Be willing and ready to share the truth.

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

1 Peter 3:15-16

- When (not if) people ask you what you believe, be ready to share God's beautiful truth with boldness!
- Don't shy away from questions, because God has literally placed you in that position to share His truth and represent Him.

Do not judge. I cannot emphasize this one enough. You are not the judge of this world.

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Matthew 7:1-2

You are representing Christ when you love others, not when you judge them.

- People expect us to judge them (past experience, no experience, word of mouth).
- We can prove them wrong. What we are actually called to do is love people and share the truth with people.
- When you judge others, they will not be interested in the truth.
- People don't want to hear about the God that we serve because we haven't represented Him the way we should.



Dedicate your profession & everything you do to God.

God has called you to your profession. It wasn't by accident that you loved being a nurse, teacher, lawyer, human services representative, customer services representative. It is not by accident that you have a talent in this area. It is not by accident that you are working with the people you are working with. God has placed you there and called you there.

Dedicate your talents and profession to Him because what we do every day is a ministry. Just as 1 Corinthians 10:31 taught us, "Do it all for the glory of God."

Remain in God and be fruitful (produce things of value: fruits of the spirit, sharing the gospel, anything positive, etc.)

John chapter 15 has the scripture about being in the world, but not of the world. Obviously, we should not take scriptures out of context, so as I was preparing for this class, I read the whole chapter. In this chapter verses 16 & 17 really stuck out to me: 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Remember that you are chosen and appointed by God to go and bear fruit that will last.

- We are called to go into our ministries (professionals) that God has called you to and to represent God in that ministry.
- Be fruitful (produce things of value: showing the fruits of the spirit, sharing the gospel, praying for others, anything positive, etc.)
 - Every single day you go to the job God has given you and called you to; show His love to people that need it.
 - As 1 Corinthians 16:14 says, Do everything in love.

