

# Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of October 15, 2023 A.D.

## Darkness & Light: Is Peaceful Co-Existence an Option?

As followers of Christ, we have been called out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light. So, that begs the question: How do we serve as faithful citizens in God's kingdom of light while we are living in a world which is dominated by Satan's kingdom of darkness? We will attempt to find the answer in this week's lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

### Read John 3:16-21

1. It is generally accepted that John 3:16 is the most often quoted verse in the Bible. But how often do you read or hear the words of John 3:18? Is verse 18 true? In your opinion, why is John 3:18 less emphasized by Christians than John 3:16?
2. Does the Bible teach that all non-believers (a) are evil and (b) hate the kingdom of God and (c) do not want to live by the truth? Please use the text of verses 16-21 to explain and/or support your answers.

### Read John 8:42-47

3. Are all non-believers children of the devil? Are all non-believers enemies of God and his Son Jesus?

### Read John 18:36-37

4. Does Jesus have a kingdom? Does Jesus have subjects/citizens in his kingdom? If so, who are his subjects/citizens? Does Jesus command and expect all of His subjects to engage in the full-time disciplines of (a) listening to Him? (b) pursuing the truth? and (c) learning and obeying the truth? Please evaluate the performance of the American church when it comes to obeying the commands and meeting the expectations of King Jesus in in each of the disciplines identified in (a), (b), and (c).

### Read Matthew 12:30

5. Does Jesus expect his followers to stand for the truth in opposition to the lies and the deceit of the culture? In your opinion, do the Christians in America have a biblical responsibility to (a) use legal and peaceful methods to influence the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court on the moral issues of same-sex marriage and religious liberty? and (b) peacefully expose and try to eliminate the lies, deceit, and corruption in our government, in the business world, in our schools, and in the church?

**Read John 14:6, 15-17 and John 16:12-13, 33 and John 17:14-18**

6. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "God gives the Holy Spirit to all Christians so that they can know, proclaim, and follow the truth of the Bible."
  
7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The believer in Christ must make every effort to put to death his personal opinions and to submit to the will of God as revealed in the truth of the Bible."

**Read Philippians 3:17-19**

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Many Christians in America have their minds set on earthly things. As a result, there is little or no power of Christ in their lives."

**Read 2 Corinthians 10:2-6**

9. Do all Christians (including you) have sinful "strongholds" in their lives? How do we identify and "demolish" those strongholds?
  
10. What are the "standards of the world"? Are Christians in a war? What are the weapons of (a) the world and (b) the Christian?
  
11. How are evolution (see Exodus 20:11), the "danger" of climate change (see Genesis 8:21-22), same-sex marriage (see Leviticus 20:13), and abortion (see Job 10:10-12) "set up against the knowledge of God"?
  
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Most Christians in America have been too lazy and/or apathetic to do the Bible study and the other preparations which are required to understand and expose the lies of the world which are identified in number 11 above."

**Consider:** We are literally in a spiritual battle to expose the deceit of the culture and to live in obedience to Christ in a world that is in rebellion against Christ. Are you and your church family fully committed to serving your commanding officer who is Jesus the Lord? See 2 Timothy 2:3-4. Or, are you guilty of giving aid and comfort to the enemy?