

CHRISTIAN SEPARATENESS FROM THE WORLD—WHY BENEFICIAL

Note to the speaker:

Make clear to audience just what separateness from the world entails, and in an encouraging manner, point out why maintaining separateness from the world is beneficial

SEPARATENESS FROM WORLD, AN IDENTIFYING MARK OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY (4 min.)

Jesus Christ was “no part of the world”; his disciples must likewise be no part of the world (Joh 17:16)

History confirms that early Christians were known for separateness from world (*rs* 272-4)

God’s standards have not changed; separateness from world is required for Christians today (Jas 4:4)

Jesus asked Father to watch over his disciples as they strive to maintain Christlike separateness from world (Joh 17:15)

True Christians today enjoy God’s guidance and protection, and they benefit themselves and others by remaining separate from world

CHRISTIANS KEEP SEPARATE FROM WORLD’S POLITICAL AFFAIRS (12 min.)

Christians remain neutral as to world’s political affairs (Joh 18:36; *rs* 269-76)

They do not take part in patriotic ceremonies, nor do they get involved in racial conflicts or political controversies

Christians must “be in subjection to the superior authorities,” which exist by God’s permission and serve a good purpose (Ro 13:1, 5-7; *w90* 11/1 10-15, 18-22)

Pay taxes and obey all laws that do not conflict with God’s law (Mr 12:17)

Show respect to those in governmental office, regardless of their personal conduct

Many benefits for those who maintain separateness from world

[Consider specific benefits and published experiences that highlight practical value of Christian’s stand]

CHRISTIANS KEEP SEPARATE FROM MORAL DEBAUCHERY OF WORLD (12 min.)

World is debauched; its view of morals does not match God’s view (*w93* 2/15 13)

From Biblical standpoint, immorality is gross infringement of God’s clearly defined moral code (Ex 20:14, 17; 1Co 6:9, 10)

Worship that is clean and undefiled from standpoint of God must be “without spot from the world” (Jas 1:27)

Must shun unwholesome social activities, debasing music, immoral and violent entertainment, bad association

If member of congregation falls into immorality, that one is helped to repent and turn around (2Co 2:5-8; 1Jo 1:9; 2:1)

Unrepentant wrongdoers to be removed from congregation (1Co 5:11-13)

Benefits from keeping separate from world and observing the Bible’s high moral standards [See “Bible standards” under MORALS in *Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1995*]

PUBLIC MINISTRY IS POSITIVE MARK OF CHRISTIAN SEPARATENESS (12 min.)

Jesus gave command to preach and make disciples (Mt 28:19, 20)

Early Christians renowned for boldness in preaching publicly and from house to house (Ac 5:28, 42; 20:20)

All Christians should share in preaching to extent possible; it is a Christian commission (Mt 24:14)

Bold and zealous participation in ministry helps us to keep separate from world; it brings tangible, satisfying benefits [See “benefits” under FIELD MINISTRY in *Watch Tower Publications Index 1930-1985* and *1986-1995*. May also use verified local experiences that highlight how active share in ministry has enabled ones to maintain separateness from world]

CHRISTIAN SEPARATENESS FROM WORLD BENEFICIAL NOW AND IN FUTURE (5 min.)

All of Jehovah’s commands have proved beneficial to his people (Read Psalm 19:7-11)

Jesus’ prayer for Jehovah to watch over his disciples has not gone unanswered

Comforting to know that nothing can separate us from Jehovah’s love and that of Jesus Christ (Ro 8:35, 38, 39)

As we maintain separateness from world, we can be assured of Jehovah’s continued loving guidance and protection

Living in world’s last days calls for our increased vigilance to keep separate

Soon old world will go into destruction, and only God’s righteous “new heavens and a new earth” will remain (2Pe 3:7, 13)

Those who do Jehovah’s will and remain separate from the world have the prospect of being rewarded with everlasting life in Paradise (Mt 25:34)

Christian separateness from world will have proved to be to their everlasting benefit

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)