

“In” but not “Of” the World

5 questions about the two kingdoms

John 17:15-16. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

1. Are you saying Christians should all be “pacifists”? If so, are you suggesting Christians can never participate in government or the military?

Rom. 13:4 [Government] is God’s servant for your good...the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer.

2. Insofar as America stands for freedom, isn't America a "Christian" nation?

Jn 8:32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

3. What's the difference between
“turning the other cheek” and
letting yourself be abused?

Matt. 22:37, 39 “You shall love the Lord
your God with all your heart, and with
all your soul, and with all your mind...
You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.”

4. As people of God, aren't we called to stand up against sin?

1Cor. 13:4-5 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not...rude. It does not insist on its own way...

1Cor. 5:12 For what have I to do with judging those outside? ...God will judge those outside.

5. Are you saying the Church is politically irrelevant?

Mark 2:16 When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Luke 7:34 the Son of Man has come...and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’

Ezek. 22:29-31 The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery; they have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the alien without redress. And I sought for anyone among them who would repair the wall and stand in the breach before me on behalf of the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out my indignation upon them...