

WHAT IN THE WORLD

1. Text: John 17:5-14
2. Words have meaning, but the same word can have more than one meaning depending on its usage and context. For instance, bark.
3. Scripture must be understood with this in mind. False teaching on words like soul and spirit.
4. Cartoon: Inmate says to his ugly wife in visiting room at prison, "Seeing you once a month is gonna make the next two years a lot easier."
5. This lesson is not meant to cause confusion and frustration with Bible study, but rather confidence in our ability to understand it.
6. In the text before us our Lord uses the one word world not in one way, or two, or three, but in four ways. Let's see those:

I. **The World As God's Creation**

1. Notice verse 5: "Before the world was, I had glory with you (God)."
2. Obviously this was before the world was created. Same point in verse 24.
3. John 1:10 The world was made through Him.
4. Matthew 25:34 Kingdom prepared for you from foundation of the world.
5. "Creation of the world" Romans 1:20 Also, foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 4:3; 9:26; I Peter 1:20).
6. Point: This is God's created world. Genesis 1:1 says God created the heavens and the earth. We are blessed to have and enjoy it.

II. **The World As The Planet Called Earth**

1. Verse 11: I am no longer in the world but these are in the world, and I come to you.
2. Also verse 15: I do not pray that you take them out of the world.
3. John 8:23 I am from above, you are of the world; I am not of this world.
4. John 13:1 Jesus knew the time had come for him to leave this world.
5. John 18:36 My kingdom is not of this world.
6. II Peter 3:6 The world perished being flooded by water.
7. Point: This world is one dimension of reality, but it is not the only one.

III. **The World As Mankind**

1. See verse 6: These men whom you have given me out of the world.
2. Also see verse 21: The world may believe that you sent me. (Also 23)
3. John 1:29 The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (3:16)
4. I Corinthians 1:20 Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
5. John 4:42 This is indeed the Christ the Savior of the world.
6. The world is filled with people who need to know and obey the Lord.

IV. **The World As Sinful, Hostility To God**

1. See verse 14: The world has hated them. Also 16: They are not of the world just as I am not of the world.
2. John 7:7 The world hates me because I testify its works are evil. (15:18)
3. James 1:27 Pure religion: keep oneself unspotted from the world.
4. James 4:4 Don't you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?
5. I John 2:15-17 Do not love the world.
6. Point: The world in this sense is a dangerous and evil realm which we must oppose and overcome or be lost.

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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