

Week 45—Not of the World

Read

A certain man had a fine canary whose song was unusually beautiful. During the summer it seemed a shame to keep the bird inside. So his owner placed his cage outside in a tree. Many sparrows frequented the tree, attracted by the cage. At first the canary was frightened, but he soon began to enjoy his feathered companions. Gradually, however, he lost the sweetness of his song. At the end of the summer he had nothing left but the monotonous twitter of the sparrows.

Because he spent his time in the wrong environment, the canary lost the finest thing he had. Today, the Christian who spend his time in a worldly environment and neglects his church attendance, Christian fellowship, and daily living with Christ loses his power to testify for Christ. ¹

Reflect

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
(Romans 2:1-2)

Respond

Right now is there anything in your life that is displeasing to God? If so, what is stopping you from letting go of this sin and fully following Christ? Do you feel like you have been conformed to the image of this world or the image of Christ? What would your friends say? What do you think your relatives would say?

Write your thoughts here:

Prayer Requests for yourself, your students, and others with whom you serve in ministry:

Remember

“I’m against sin. I’ll kick it as long as I’ve got a foot, and I’ll fight it as long as I’ve got a fist. I’ll butt it as long as I’ve got a head. I’ll bite it as long as I’ve got a tooth. And when I’m old and fistless and footless and toothless, I’ll gum it till I go home to Glory and it goes home to perdition!”²

—Billy Sunday

¹W. Herschel Ford, *Sermons You Can Preach on John*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1958) p. 350.

²Hutson, Curtis, ed. *Great Preaching on Soul Winning*, (Murfreesboro, TN: Sword of the Lord Publishers, 1989), page unknown.