

## LESSON 15: THE LOST WORLD

### “As a Christian, How Do I Relate to the Lost World?”

This lesson is designed to show you how to live a balanced and consistent life in order to lead people from **friendship** with you, to **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ, and then **fellowship** in the body of believers.

This present world system stands in opposition to God’s Eternal Purpose and the gospel.

*Galatians 1:4; 6:14; Ephesians 6:12*

God’s children are to be separate from this present world and its system.

*I John 3:1,13; 5:19*

At the same time, we are to reach lost men and women who live in the world for Jesus Christ. We are in the world, but not to be of it.

*John 17:14-15*

How then are we to fulfill the mission of evangelism?

I. Learn to expect opposition from the lost world because you live for Jesus Christ.

A. You will be opposed because Jesus was opposed.

*John 15:18-20*

B. You will be opposed when you live for Him. The temptation is to "go along with the world, so as not to face opposition.

*II Timothy 3:12*

- II. Learn to anticipate the areas from which opposition comes.
- A. Your opposition may come from those closest to you, who know you best – your network of friends, family, fellow workers, and acquaintances.
- Matthew 10:35-36; John 1:11; Mark 6:4*
- B. Your opposition will come from lost people in general. The two spiritual families (saved and lost) have NEVER gotten along and never will.
- Genesis 4:8; Galatians 4:29*
- C. Your opposition will come from society, because the nature and course of this present world system is against God. This opposition is communicated through the media. You must judge what is said by the Word of God.
- I John 2:15-17; James 4:4*
- D. Your opposition sometimes comes from Satan himself (*II Cor. 4:3-4*).
1. He is our adversary.
- I Peter 5:8*
2. He is currently at work in those who are lost.
- Ephesians 2:2*
- III. Learn to overcome this opposition.
- A. Give a soft answer and avoid fighting.
- Proverbs 15:1; Romans 12:18; II Timothy 2:24-26*
- B. Please God with your life to gain peace with human enemies.
- Proverbs 16:7*
- C. Have faith in God, and act on that, not distrust.
- I John 5:4-5*

- D. Love your enemies and help meet their needs.

*Romans 12:14, 20-21*

Jesus Christ loved His enemies enough to die for them when He did not have to. The world cannot understand this type of love, but those who are seeking truth will be drawn to it.

- E. Pray for your enemies with pure motives.

*Matthew 5:44*

You will never fully eliminate opposition in this life, but you can achieve victory in the face of opposition with Bible principles. You already have victory because you have faith, and can put on the whole armor of God.

- IV. Learn how the lost world should view your life as a Christian.

- A. ► They should know you love God – NOT just by your mouth but by your life.

*I Corinthians 8:3*

- B. They should see your lifestyle as different from this world, and see your behavior as a light drawing them to truth.

*II Corinthians 6:14-18; I Peter 2:9; Philippians 2:15*

- C. They should view you as balanced in all things, and not so peculiar that you lose influence.

The common malady of American culture is to be bi-polar. A key manifestation is lack of ability to stay balanced in mentality and emotions.

*Philippians 4:5; I Corinthians 9:22; Titus 1:8*

- D. They should see you as being open and honest in all matters, and never seeking vengeance.

*II Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17*

E. They should see a living testimony of the grace of God.

*Ephesians 2:7; 3:8; 4:29; Colossians 4:6; II Timothy 2:1*

V. Learn how you should view your place in this world.

A. You are a pilgrim in a strange land.

*Hebrews 11:13; I Peter 2:11*

B. Your home is heaven, and you are a citizen there.

*Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20*

C. Your mission while here is to reach the lost for Jesus Christ.

*Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20*

VI. Learn how to share your faith!

If you follow Jesus, he will lead you to seek the lost.

*Mark 1:17-18; Luke 19:10*

A. Understand what God tells us to do.

*Mark 16:15*

This is not just for pastors or deacons, but for all the saints.

B. Understand the Biblical philosophy by which to do it: friendship – faith – fellowship.

1. Start with **friendship**. The goal is not “evangelism,” but to earn the right to be heard by keeping the conversation going.

*I Corinthians 10:33*

2. As you plant and water the seed of the gospel, God will open their heart to **faith**.

*I Corinthians 3:5-7*

3. After they get saved, lead them to **fellowship** with other believers.

*Acts 9:11,19,26-28*

- C. Understand how to mix your testimony with the terms of the gospel.

1. The gospel is the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf to pay the penalty for our sins.

*I Corinthians 15:1-4*

2. That good news saves us because grace is the finished work of Christ, operating on our behalf, when we activate it by faith.

*Ephesians 2:8-9; John 19:30; Hebrews 10:10*

3. To keep the conversation going, share the gospel as you relate your testimony of how you came to Christ and got saved.

*Revelation 12:11*

A great example is Paul in Acts 22. He talks about what his life was like without Christ (vv 3-5), how he met Christ (vv 6-10), and how his life changed (vv 11-20). He ended with the ministry of reconciliation we are all given to reach the lost.

*Acts 22:21; II Corinthians 5:18-21*

4. Develop a simple presentation of the gospel.

A great example is “The Romans Road.” Walk someone progressively through the following verses: Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23a; 5:8; 6:23b; 10:9-10,13.

Then offer to lead them in a prayer of salvation, as simple as this: “God save me for Jesus sake. I see what he did on the cross, and I believe he died, was buried, and rose from the dead just for me, to save me from my sins. I trust Jesus right now for eternal life.”

Follow-up by offering to meet with them over the first three lessons of discipleship: salvation, security and baptism. Encourage them to read three chapters in John’s gospel every day for the next week (and they will finish the book).

VII. What is my responsibility to the government?

A. Human government is one of three institutions ordained by God. The other two are the family and the church.

All governments are part of this world system controlled by Satan. Yet what the Devil rules God overrules, and has arranged and appointed world leaders.

*Luke 4:5-6; Psalm 75:6-7*

B. So you are to submit to the government as an ordained institution of God. Do this as a testimony to the lost.

*Romans 13:1-2; I Peter 2:13-16*

C. If you do what is right, there no reason to fear. God honors good works.

*Romans 13:3-5*

D. Therefore, render to the government what is due in taxes.

*Romans 13:6-7; Matthew 17:24-27, 22:17-22*

E. Honor those in authority, even the wicked. Commit the consequences to God and let Him handle them.

*I Peter 2:17-23* – When Peter wrote these words, Nero was king, perhaps the most wicked Emperor the world ever had.

F. Realize we cannot legislate morals or change society through politics or protests. Humanity is by nature fallen and sinful and must be changed individually, and from the inside out, by a personal saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

*Titus 2:11-14*

G. Therefore, pray positively and thankfully for those who are in authority, regardless of party or politics.

*2 Timothy 2:1-4*

# THE LOST WORLD

## Lesson #15

1. As a Christian you will encounter opposition from the world. Why is this?
  - A.
  - B.
  
2. List some sources of opposition you may face.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
3. There are ways the Christian can deal with opposition from the world. Briefly explain how the following verses can help.
  - A. *Proverbs 15:1*
  - B. *Proverbs 16:7*
  - C. *I John 5:4-5*
  - D. *Romans 12:14,20-21*
  - E. *Matthew 5:44*

4. When lost people observe your life, what should they see?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  
5. As you look at the lost world, what is your position?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
6. God has ordained three institutions for humanity. List them.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.

7. As Christians we have responsibilities concerning our government. List just four primary ones.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
8. Many people today are trying to force morality on society through passing laws, or bring societal change through a process of protests. Why hasn't this process ever worked?

## **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

What did Paul say to witness to the multitude in Jerusalem?

**Acts 22:3-5** – What was his life like without Christ?

**Acts 22:6-10** – How did he personally meet Jesus?

**Acts 22:11-21** – How did God work in his life after accepting Jesus?

How can you use the book of Romans to share the gospel?

**Key memory verses:**  
*II Timothy 3:12; I John 2:15-16;*  
*I Corinthians 8:3*

Some popular false attitudes among Christians are:

1. Christians are to be totally separate from unsaved people.
2. I should do anything to keep people from being upset with me.
3. The best way to fight opposition is with an aggressive response.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand these attitudes are wrong and why.

→ Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.