

## **WE DON'T BELONG HERE** **(John 17:13-16)**

### **I. Remember that you don't belong here.**

- A. Jesus very plainly told us this (Matthew 6:19-21).
  - 1. The things we have don't matter.
  - 2. They cannot be taken with us and will only deteriorate.
- B. Jesus knew exactly where He was from and often spoke of returning there (John 16:28).
- C. The faithful patriarchs mentioned in Hebrews 11 understood this .
  - 1. 11:9-10.
  - 2. 11:13-16.
- D. Truly, this world is not our home and we are just passing through.

### **II. Do not fall in love with this world.**

- A. Matthew 6:24.
- B. How many Christians do we know that have fallen away by making this mistake?
  - 1. 1 John 2:15-17.
  - 2. We get tied to the things of this world and it pulls us away from God.
- C. When we become friends with the world, we become enemies of God (James 4:4).
- D. Jesus knew a better place existed and that He was going back there when His mission on earth was completed.
- E. When we fall in love with the world we've left, nothing good comes from it (2 Peter 2:20).

### **III. Live holy lives.**

- A. When you read the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, you quickly see that was what Jesus was teaching people to do.
  - 1. It was a sermon designed to prepare people for the coming kingdom.
  - 2. The kingdom is only going to be inhabited by people who lead holy lives.
- B. 1 Peter 1:15-16.
- C. Think about the life that Jesus led.
  - 1. He was perfect in an imperfect world.
  - 2. The great thing about God is that He does not require us to be perfect.
  - 3. God requires of us that we be faithful and holy.
- D. When we sin, if we are holy, we will repent of whatever it is we've done and strive to live better in the future.
- E. When we apply the teaching of scripture to our lives, we will be holy people in the eyes of God.
  - 1. We will be that holy sacrifice for which God is looking (Romans 12:1).
  - 2. Jesus died to make us a holy people (Colossians 1:21-23).

**IV. Stay focused on why we are here.**

- A. Matthew 6:33.
  - 1. This is the most important thing in our lives.
  - 2. We are to seek the kingdom before all else.
- B. Colossians 3:22-24.
  - 1. We glorify God when we are seeking to do His will.
  - 2. We seek the kingdom first when seeking to do His will.
- C. Jesus was constantly concerned with fulfilling the will of the Father.
  - 1. John 9:4.
  - 2. John 5:30.
- D. We aren't here to see how much we can accumulate of this world's goods.
- E. We aren't here to see how much fun we can have or friends we can have in this world.
- F. We're here to glorify and honor God by seeking His kingdom first.

**V. Stay in touch with the homeland.**

- A. How often do we read of Jesus separating Himself from others to go and pray?
  - 1. He often did it in His ministry in Galilee.
  - 2. He did it the night before His death.
- B. Jesus knew and taught the importance of prayer (Luke 18:1).
- C. We must be people that pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- D. We also must be people that know the scriptures.
  - 1. We run into trouble when we don't (Matthew 22:29).
  - 2. 2 Timothy 2:15.
- E. When we are apart from those we love, we often text or call them don't we?
  - 1. Why?
  - 2. We know how important it is to keep in touch.
- F. Think of those people with whom you've lost contact.
  - 1. We don't have any type relationship with them anymore.
  - 2. It's because we don't talk or communicate.
- G. If heaven is that important to us, we will keep in touch through prayer and study.

**VI. Look expectantly to going home.**

- A. Jesus talked about returning to the Father and taking His disciples with Him (John 14:3).
- B. He taught parables about this (Luke 12:36-37).
- C. Six times in John 14-16 Jesus mentioned that He was going to the Father.
  - 1. Jesus wanted to go home.
  - 2. He wanted and still wants for as many to come home with Him as possible.
- D. One day, He is coming for those of us who truly want to go to heaven.
  - 1. We show we truly want to go by the lives we lead.
  - 2. We show we truly want to go by leading Christ-like lives.
- E. Paul said he was in the midst of a difficult decision about living or dying because being with Jesus was far better.

- F. John said, "Even so, come Lord Jesus."
- G. Can we say these things?
- H. Not if we are looking expectantly towards heaven.

From a sermon outline by John Curtis.