

**2020**

**Valley Bible Church  
Men's Breakfast Presentations**

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# 2020!

(Part 1)

Here's a great verse to memorize at the start of the new year and practice throughout the year.

***He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?***

Micah 6:8 (ESV)

This verse describes three behaviors that ***the LORD require(s) of you***. You are to:

- ***Do justice***
- ***Love kindness***
- ***Walk humbly with your God***

## ***Do Justice***

Do you always – to the best of your ability and relying on God's enablement – do what's right and just and honest? Are you known as a man of integrity? Do you conduct yourself and do business differently than the unsaved people of the world?

We live in an increasingly unjust world where Christians are personally subject to injustice because of their faith. This is a great opportunity for you to demonstrate true Christian character.

## ***Love Kindness***

Do you love kindness; that is, are you committed to practicing kindness? How do you treat others? Are you kind even to those who aren't kind to you or deliberately mistreat you? Do you show mercy to those who don't deserve it?

Do you have compassion for others who are experiencing difficult times, especially for other believers? More than that, do you help them? (Galatians 6:10) Do unbelievers see unity and love among us?

## ***Walk Humbly with God***

Are you learning humility? Do you conduct life in accordance with the will of God – walking humbly with Him, submitting to Him in every area of life, holding Him in respect and awe (fearing Him)?

**Bottom line:** Are there clear differences between your demeanor and that of the unsaved people of the world? From what people see in your life, what do they think of your Savior? It's an old but true cliché, "You may be the only Jesus some people will ever see." Based on observing you, will their vision of Christ be 20/20 in this year of ...

# 2020?

VBC Mens' Breakfast, January 2, 2020

# 2020!

(Part 2)

In Part 1, we determined that God wants us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him. How can we do that? Let's find out. Remember that God doesn't command anything that He doesn't enable!

No one can successfully live the Christian life in his own strength, depending only on his own abilities. It's only possible with the help of the Holy Spirit Who permanently indwells us at the moment of salvation. We are urged to be filled with the Spirit and to walk in the Spirit.

## The Filling of the Holy Spirit

***Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.*** Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

The fact that we are instructed (commanded) to be filled with the Holy Spirit indicates that His filling is not automatic, as is His indwelling. Being filled by/with the Spirit is something we must request.

The key concept of filling is *control*. Alcohol flowing through a person's veins can take over and control his thoughts, words, and actions. (Alcohol is just one example of what can control us.) The result of being filled with the Spirit is that He controls your thoughts, words, and actions.

### How to be filled with the Holy Spirit

- Confess known sin (1 John 1:9).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you, to take control of your mind, tongue, and actions.
- Obey God's commands (do what He instructs you to do in His Word). Only obedience to God's commands allows the Holy Spirit to work within us.

By sinning, we can lose the filling (control) of the Holy Spirit, but not His indwelling. When we sin, the Holy Spirit obviously is not in control of our lives. Filling can be reinstated, as often as necessary, by repeating the procedure above.

## Walking in the Spirit

When we allow the Holy Spirit to control us, when we live each moment in dependency on Him, sensitive to His voice and obedient to Him, we are said to be *walking in the Spirit*. It results in many practical benefits. For example:

***... walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh***  
Galatians 5:16 (NASB)

As we go through each day, we should be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. We should be totally submitted to Him. That means we must be sensitive to His initial promptings. When He speaks to our hearts, we should immediately obey.

VBC Mens' Breakfast  
January 9, 2020

## 2020!

(Part 3)

In Part 1, from Micah 6:8 we determined that God wants us to **do justice, love kindness** (mercy), and **walk humbly with Him** in this year of 2020. In Part 2, we found that this is only possible as we are filled with and walking in the Holy Spirit.

Scripture is practical. Verses like Micah 6:8 are meant to be applied. The best recent example I've read of a Christian putting this verse into practice was reported nationally in October, 2019. Here's the story.

Upon returning home after working a double shift on September 6, 2018, Dallas police officer Amber Guyger mistook the apartment of Botham Jean for her apartment, and believing him to be an intruder in her apartment, shot him dead. He was innocent and unarmed.

Guyger was subsequently tried for homicide, and on October 2, 2019, was found guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison. The presiding jurist was Judge Tammy Kemp.

At the end of the trial, the victim's 18-year-old brother, Brandt Jean, addressed the defendant, told her he forgave her and wanted only the best for her. He asked her to give her life to Christ, which, he said, is what his brother would have wanted for her. At the end of his statement, Brandt Jean requested permission to hug Guyger. Judge Kemp quietly, tearfully said, "yes." Jean and Guyger embraced for almost a minute.

When the trial was over and court adjourned, the defendant and the judge had a brief verbal exchange. In that dialog, Judge Kemp told Guyger, "Mr. Jean has forgiven you. Please forgive yourself so you can live a purposeful life." In response, Guyger said, "I don't even have a Bible, I don't know where to begin."

At that point, Judge Kemp went to her chambers, retrieved one of her personal Bibles and gave it to Guyger, opening it to John 3:16 and encouraging her to read the gospels. Guyger then asked permission to hug the Judge. Judge Kemp didn't answer immediately. When Guyger asked a second time, permission was granted, and the two women embraced.

The Judge later told a reporter that between the first and second hug requests, "I was reminded about my responsibility to show love and compassion ... I was reminded also about my responsibility as to how to conduct myself as a judge: **'What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly.'** (Micah 6:8) So, of course I said, 'Yes, I'll give you a hug.'" That hug was an act of mercy, compassion, and humility, as were the other things Judge Kemp did for Amber Guyger. The 10-year sentence was an act of justice.

We may not have an opportunity to display our faith as publicly as did Judge Kemp, but we can heed Micah 6:8 and – with the enablement of the Holy Spirit – do what's right and just and honest, show kindness, mercy, and compassion to others, and walk humbly with God, submitting to Him in every area of life.

## In, Not Of

(Part 1)

### *In the world, but not of the world*

Have you heard the above expression regarding a Christian's position in the world? While that expression *per se* isn't found in the Bible, there are many allusions to it (example: John 17:11, 14).

The Greek word for "world" is *cosmos*. Although it can refer to the entire created universe, in a biblical context it usually refers to the inhabited earth, the people who live on the earth, or the world system ruled by Satan (John 12:31).

As redeemed people, Christians are no longer ruled by Satan or bound by the principles and values of the world system, so we are indeed **not of the world**. In fact, as we mature spiritually we are being changed into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29) and our interest in the things of the sinful world should be diminishing.

We had no choice regarding being physically born into the world – the inhabited earth – but we don't have to accept and live by the values and standards of the world system. Instead, we are to transform our minds and conform our actions to God's standards by the study and application of God's Word (Romans 12:2).

**Not of the world** suggests that we are not to act as the unsaved world does. Instead, we are to act according to the new nature we received when we accepted Christ as Savior and were placed in Him. We are to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14) in this sin-darkened world, but we are not to be part of that darkness. We are to live in such a way that those outside the faith see our good deeds and our manner of life and know that there is something different about us.

Spiritually, this world is not our home. We have a heavenly citizenship (Philippians 3:20), but as earthly ambassadors for Christ (1 Corinthians 5:20), we need to be **in the world**. We need to be involved in our societies, just as a political ambassador is immersed in the country where he serves. Praying for his disciples – and us – in His high priestly prayer, the Lord Jesus Christ requested of His Father, *I do not ask that You take them out of the world but that You keep them from the evil one* (John 17:15).

Because we are **in the world, but not of the world**, we are called to holiness – being set apart from the world – for service to God and His kingdom. While we are on this earth, one of our responsibilities is to be witnesses **in the world**. We are to *go ... and make disciples of all nations* (Matthew 28:19-20).

VBC Mens' breakfast  
January 23, 2020

# In, Not Of

(Part 2)

## *In the world, but not of the world*

In Part 1, we determined that although we are **in the world** we're **not of the world** (system) because, as Christians, we're no longer in bondage to Satan, the one who dominates the evil world system and keeps people bound to it.

The apostle John warns us against loving – being devoted to – the world system:

***Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.*** 1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

The world system is opposed to God, His Word, and His people (John 15:18-19). God is excluded from the values and goals of the world system. As Christians, we are to reject the world system, what it stands for, and what it does.

The first sentence in the passage above indicates that love for the world system and love for God are mutually exclusive: ***when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.*** A person who is devoted – sold out – to the world system has no love for God the Father. That person is unsaved. His heart and mind haven't been transformed.

Admittedly, much of what the world offers is appealing to the old, sinful nature which is still active in a Christian. The world competes for the Christian's heart, but you cannot both love the world and God at the same time (James 4:4). Love for the world will draw you away from love for God.

All that the world system offers – ***a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions*** – is temporary, it ***is fading away***. What the world offers is meaningless, useless, of no eternal value, but life lived in God's will – receiving Christ as Savior and doing what pleases Him – then rejecting the sinful things of this passing world system, is a life that is eternal: ***anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.***

**Bottom Line:** Where is your focus – on Heaven or on earth? On what God offers or what the world system offers? What values are most important to you? Do your actions reflect the world's values or God's values?

VBC Mens' breakfast  
January 30, 2020