

## Where You Belong

*When you're dull from all that glitters,  
when your thoughts have a hollow ring,  
when you can't escape from the feeling  
you're getting it wrong...*

*All your foolproof plans seem foolish,  
all your status is status quo,  
all you really need to know  
is where you belong.*

The Newsboys, Where You Belong

### Monday – In the World, but not of this World

*"Long ago a man of the world was defined as a man who in every serious crisis is invariably wrong."* Anon

1. Please read John 17:6-19. According to verse 9, for whom is Jesus praying? From whom did Jesus receive these people? What does this tell you about your relationship with God?
2. What is the point of Jesus' prayer according to verses 15-19? What does it mean to be in the world but not of it?
3. Where does our sanctification come from? Look again at verses 8 and 14, along with John 1:1-4. What role does the word of God play for those who belong to Jesus?

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**Text Insight:** Sanctification is the ongoing spiritual process God uses to make us more like Jesus.

**Making it Personal:** Are you getting enough from your time in God's word to give you the strength to represent him in the world?

### Tuesday – In the World

*"...the more unsavory the characters, the more at ease they seemed to feel around Jesus.... What has happened to reverse the pattern of Jesus' day? Why don't sinners like being around us?"* Phillip Yancey

1. Read Mark 2:13-17. Who was drawn to Jesus? Who was repelled by him (i.e. found contempt for him)?
2. How do you think Jesus was able to be "in the world" in such a way that he did not become conformed by it? What did people find attractive about Jesus and his followers?
3. Rewrite verse 17 in your own words. How does this verse apply to us today?
4. **Prayer Focus:** Ask God to help you be in the world (i.e. engaging with unbelievers) but not of it.

### Wednesday - Jesus' Prayer for You

*"Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the Kingdom. ... I beg you to see how absolutely vital prayer is."* Charles Spurgeon, 19<sup>th</sup> c. British preacher

1. Please read John 17:20-26. According to verse 20, how does this prayer apply to you?
2. Take a look at verses 21-24; what is the purpose of the unity of believers? Why is this appropriate in light of John 1:1-4?

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**Text Insight:** To see the glory of God means to see God for who he truly is.

**Making it Personal:** Does your relationship with other Christians bring glory to Christ? Are they attractive to the watching world?

### Thursday – Love: the badge of membership

*"Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays."* Andrew Murray

1. Please read John 13:31-35. What did Jesus say would result from his followers loving one another? How do you think this would show people that Jesus is God the Son?
2. In John 14:15-26, how does Jesus assure his followers that they will be able to carry on?
3. Now look at John 14:27-31. What does Jesus mean by the "world"? How does this help you understand the passage you read on Monday (John 17:6-19)?

**Prayer Focus:** Pray for the FBC family, that we will be known for the love we demonstrate to one another and to the communities in which we live.

### Friday – Not of the World

*"The cultivation of the mind is a kind of food supplied for the soul of man."* Cicero, 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC Roman philosopher

1. Please read Romans 12:1-3. What are we warned against? What do you think the worldly way of thinking is, when you consider the instruction in verse 3?
2. If you were to live your life according to the pattern laid out in Romans 12:4-21, how would this lead to being "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (verse 2)?
3. What does Philippians 4:4-8 have to tell us about renewing our minds? What actions and attitudes does it tell us to adopt in order to show people that we belong to Jesus?

**Making it Personal:** Take Philippians 4:8 to heart and ask God to keep your mind on praiseworthy things.

**For the Weekend:** Read Acts 16:16-36. How did Paul and Silas serve those in the world while not conforming to the world's ways? What affect did this have on the jailer's life?