

HOLY PEOPLE IN A BROKEN WORLD

The company we keep and the capacity to become a conduit between worldly values and Jesus is more crucial than we may want to admit. The truth is we can and so often do become influenced by people and culture in a way that hurts or destroys our faith. It's a tough dichotomy in that we are the ones who represent Jesus to reveal his love and salvation to the lost. However, we are fragile vessels (clay jars) who can be overcome by the pull of what the world has to offer. We have a job to do but that job requires us to work in dangerous places and situations where our souls can become vulnerable. We have to be in the world but not of it.

Growing up, how did sharing life with believers and unbelievers (family and friends) effect your life?

TALK ABOUT IT

Holiness is being "separate," not necessarily being "perfect."
How does that distinction change the way you understand what it means to live a holy life?

Read 2 Cor. 6:14-15.

As in Paul's day, our culture is marked by wealth inequality, religious confusion, sexual immorality, and obsession with appearances.
Which of these cultural pressures do you believe has the greatest influence on Christians today and why?

What do you think it means to be spiritually yoked to someone or something?

How can you recognize when the culture around you is shaping your values more than your faith is?

APPLY IT

Read 2 Cor. 7:1.

Why do you think we are or can be so easily influenced by others in negative ways?

What Paul says in verse one seems confusing. He says to “purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit…” On the other hand, Jesus was a “friend of sinners.”

How can we do both without violating the other?

How do you use your Christian influence to show others that you are FOR them?

PRAY

Everyone has influence. What are you doing with yours? Pray courage and desire to be FOR people and glorify God in doing it.