

# The Lost World

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

The Bible is clear that the present world operates contrary to God. The word of God commands his children to be separate from the world, while at the same time to reach lost men and women for the Lord Jesus Christ. That task requires a balanced and consistent life in order to influence people for Jesus Christ without the world influencing you for evil. This lesson is designed to show you how to overcome the inevitable opposition you will receive from the world as you seek to rescue the lost. The lesson is also designed to impress upon you the importance of an effective witness of the grace of Jesus Christ; both by your life and by your verbal presentation of the gospel.

- I You should learn to expect opposition from the world.
  - A The world opposed Jesus Christ long before it will oppose you.  
John 15:18-21
  - B As his representative, the world will oppose you also. However, you will only be opposed if you live for Jesus Christ. If you go along with the world, you will not be opposed. If you are not receiving some opposition from the world, either God has given you a temporary period of grace, or there is something wrong with your walk with him.  
II Timothy 3:12, Luke 6:26
  - C Do not confuse opposition with the general problems of life or with the consequences of sin. Adversity and difficulty in life comes from many sources, and some of them will be your own fault. Opposition from the world comes when you are living right before God and sharing his truth with others.  
I Peter 3:10-17, Acts 4:13-22, 5:17-42
- II Opposition from the world will come from several areas.
  - A All opposition has its ultimate source in Satan. He is the mastermind behind all resistance to the work of God in the world and in your life.
    - 1 Satan is the “god of this world”, and makes every effort to hinder the work of God and keep the lost from coming to Christ.  
II Corinthians 4:3-4, I Thessalonians 2:18

Yea, and all that will  
live godly in Christ  
Jesus shall suffer  
persecution.  
2 Timothy 3:12

- 2 Satan has established a “course of this world” to directly oppose the work of God. He is currently at work in the lives of his children to try to accomplish his purposes and frustrate God’s plan for your life.  
Ephesians 2:1-3
- 3 Satan is your personal enemy, and seeks to destroy your life.  
I Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:10

B Satan masterminds opposition in your life from three major areas; like a target or “bullseye”. The closer he can get to the center, the more effective the attack.

- 1 Opposition can come from those closest to you who know you best: friends, family, co-workers, and other acquaintances. This opposition is the hardest to face because of the personal relationships involved.  
Matthew 10:35-36, Mark 6:4, John 1:11
- 2 Opposition can come from lost people in general. The two spiritual families have never gotten along, and they never will.  
Galatians 4:29, I John 3:13
- 3 Opposition can come from society in general. The nature and course of the world is designed to run contrary to God’s word. This opposition comes mainly through the media, worldly education, and the institutions of this world. You must judge those things by the word of God.  
I John 2:15-17, James 4:4

III You must learn how to overcome this opposition. You will NEVER eliminate it in this life, but you can achieve victory in the face of opposition with Bible principles.

- A Please God with your life.  
Proverbs 16:7
- B Give a soft answer. Avoid fights whenever possible. This does NOT mean you are to give in to every attack and appease those who oppose you. But you can rise above many confrontations by not adding to the strife.  
Proverbs 15:1, I Peter 3:9, Romans 12:18
- C Love your enemies, pray for them, and help them. Jesus Christ loved his enemies enough to die for them when he didn’t have to do it. The world cannot understand this type of love, and those who are seeking the truth will be drawn to it. In some cases, the result will be turning an enemy into a friend by leading them to Jesus Christ.  
Romans 12:14, 20-21, Matthew 5:44

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*But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.  
Mark 6:4*

- D Keep good company. Associate with people who love God and want to serve him.  
I Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20, Psalm 1:1-3
- IV God promises you victory in the midst of opposition when you “*put on the whole armour of God*”. There are seven items in this armour to give you a complete package to enable you to stand against Satan’s opposition. Ephesians 6:10-18
- A Loins girt about with truth (verse 14). Truth is defined as the word of God, and this part of the armour covers the midsection – the strongest part of the body. The strength of your relationship with God is dependent upon the application of the word of God to the struggles of spiritual opposition.  
John 17:17, Proverbs 31:17, Jeremiah 1:17-19
- B The breastplate of righteousness (verse 14). The breastplate was a shield attached to the torso area to protect the soldier’s heart. When opposition comes, you must keep your heart right with God.  
I Thessalonians 5:8, Proverbs 4:23
- C Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (verse 15). Your feet must be protected from the elements of the world as you carry the gospel to the lost.  
Romans 10:15, Isaiah 52:7
- D The shield of faith (verse 16). The shield of the Roman soldier was a moveable instrument which allowed him to ward off unexpected and unusual attacks. Your enemy Satan will seek every means to defeat you in your Christian life.  
I Peter 5:8-9, I John 5:4, Psalm 28:7
- E The helmet of salvation (verse 17). The helmet obviously protects the head, which governs the body. You obtained the helmet of salvation when you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour. During times of spiritual conflict, dependence upon Jesus Christ as your head will protect you from opposition.  
Colossians 1:17-18, I Thessalonians 5:8, Isaiah 59:17
- F The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (verse 17). This is your only weapon for offence. You must submit to the Holy Spirit, and learn how to handle the word of God in order to ward off the attacks of your enemy.  
Hebrews 4:12, James 4:7, Psalm 149:6

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*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*  
Hebrews 4:12

G Praying always (verse 18). There are no coverings in the armour for your lower legs. This area of your body is protected when the battle is fought on your knees. There is also no covering for your back. You are to face the spiritual opposition of life in prayer.  
II Corinthians 10:3-5, II Thessalonians 3:1-2, Philippians 4:6-7

V Learning to see the world as God sees it will also help you to overcome opposition.

A You are a pilgrim in a strange land.  
Hebrews 11:13, I Peter 2:9-12

B Your home is in heaven.  
Ephesians 2:6, Philippians 3:20

C Remember that this world is temporal; it will someday perish.  
II Peter 3:10-13, II Corinthians 4:17-18, I Corinthians 7:29-31

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*For our conversation  
is in heaven; from  
whence also we look  
for the Saviour, the  
Lord Jesus Christ:  
Philippians 3:20*

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON:

*You are an ambassador of Jesus Christ to the lost world. The world should know that you love God by a valid presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ from your mouth, and by a vivid picture of him through your life. Your mission to reach lost people cannot be accomplished unless BOTH of those things are done.  
I Corinthians 8:3, I Corinthians 15:1-4, II Corinthians 5:20*

VI As an ambassador of Jesus Christ, you are responsible to represent his life to the lost world by your character.

A The world should see a balanced life - not extreme in any areas. Your life should be separate in moral and spiritual matters, but not so radically different physically and culturally that you lose credibility and influence.  
Philippians 4:5, II Corinthians 6:14-18, I Corinthians 9:19-22

B The world should see you as open and honest in all matters; a testimony of a "good report". If people cannot trust Christians, then who can they trust?  
II Corinthians 8:21, Romans 12:17, I Timothy 3:7

C Essentially, the world should see Jesus Christ reflected in your life.  
Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:21, John 12:21

VII As an “ambassador of Christ”, you are responsible to share the gospel with others.

- A Pray that God would give you opportunities.  
Colossians 4:2-6, Ephesians 6:18-20
- B Depend upon the Holy Spirit to guide your witness.  
Acts 1:8, Matthew 10:19-20, I Peter 3:15
- C Develop a simple presentation of the plan of salvation. There are many ways to present the gospel, but do not try to get too “theological” with lost people.  
I Corinthians 15:1-4, II Corinthians 11:3
- D There are some basic gospel passages to get you started. As your spiritual life grows, and you gain more experience in sharing the gospel, you will develop more ways to witness. But remember, there are many methods to present the gospel of Jesus Christ, but no one can present a better message: Jesus died for sinners.
  - 1 The “Romans Road” can effectively lead people to Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”* A person must realize he is lost before he can be saved.

Romans 5:12: *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”* A person must see that his sin originated with Adam and sentences him to die and be separated from God.

Romans 6:23: *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* A person must see that his sin will certainly be required of him, but that God offers him salvation as a free gift through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:6-8: *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* A person must know that Jesus died for his sins.

Romans 10:9-10: *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* A person must believe that Jesus died for him, and that he rose from the dead, and ask him to be his Saviour.

When a person acknowledges this, you can lead him to Jesus Christ.  
*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*  
Romans 10:13

A simple prayer of salvation will result in a person being born again, based on his acknowledging the above facts:

“Dear Lord Jesus,  
I know that I am a sinner. I know that my good works cannot save me from sin. I believe that only you, Lord Jesus, can save me from my sin. I believe that you, Lord Jesus, died for me. I believe you rose from the dead on the third day. Please forgive me and save me from my sin. I will put my trust in you alone, Lord Jesus. I will receive you as my Saviour, and I will follow you as my Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, Amen.”

The attitude of heart necessary for salvation is seen in Luke 18:13:

*“God be merciful to me a sinner.”*

- 2 There are several places in the Bible where the gospel is concisely stated in a single verse or passage. These are effective scriptures to use in witnessing.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

John 3:16

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

Ephesians 2:8-9

*“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we may be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

II Corinthians 5:21

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## Basic questions you may be asking:

As a Christian, how do I relate to the government?

Government is one of three institutions ordained by God, along with the family and the church. However, during this age, God has allowed Satan to exercise control of the political governments and institutions of this world.

Luke 4:5-6, II Corinthians 4:3-4

The ordinance of God requires you to submit to the ruling powers on earth as a testimony to win others to Christ, and to pray that believers would be free to share the gospel.

Titus 3:1-2, I Timothy 2:1-4, Romans 13:1-2

Do what is right, and you will have no reason to fear the government. God will honor you for doing right, and will not allow the government any power over you that he is not ultimately in control of.

Romans 13:3-5, John 19:10-11

Render to the government what is due them by law.

Romans 13:6-7, Matthew 17:24-27, 22:15-22

Submit to the ordinances of man and the laws of the land. Honor those in authority, even the wicked - without partaking of their wickedness. Commit any adverse situations to God, and let him handle them. God is responsible to judge governments, not us. Peter wrote this admonition when Nero was king; one of the most wicked tyrants in history.

I Peter 2:13-17, Proverbs 21:1

Realize you cannot legislate morals or change mankind through political action. Man is by nature fallen and sinful and must be changed individually, from the inside, through a personal saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:11-14

Do you have any other questions about this subject?

## REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

There are many popular beliefs which are contrary to the truths of the word of God. A discussion of these issues in light of the principles you just learned should give you a proper understanding of this lesson and correct some of these misconceptions:

- 1.) In what ways are Christians to separate themselves from lost people?
- 2.) Why is just “living a good Christian life” not enough as a witness of Jesus Christ?
- 3.) Describe some of the ways you can overcome opposition for your faith in Jesus Christ.
- 4.) Explain briefly how you would lead a lost person to Jesus Christ.

## Memory Verses:

**John 3:16:** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

**Romans 10:9-10:** “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

**I Corinthians 8:3:** “But if any man love God, the same is known of him.”