

We are to be *in* the world, but not *of* the world, but engaged *with* the world: salt, light, witness and friend.

When we “retreat” into our “holy huddles” we are in more danger than when we live on the cutting edge of witness in the world.

Our greatest enemy (Satan) always does more damage to us by using comfortable and cultural Christianity than by open opposition from the world!



IV. THE SAFETY OF SPIRITUAL FORTITUDE

Jesus here is praying against **spiritual compromise**: giving up and seeking to live in spiritual détente (a relaxing of the tension) with the spirit of the age.

The compromise goes on and on as we preach and teach about **personal peace and prosperity**.

Why do we think this way? It is not because the Word of God is not clear in this way, but because we fear the ridicule, rejection, and reaction of *the world*.

There is safety in spiritual fortitude: The honor and dignity you have for people that makes you speak the truth to them out of love for them and concern for their souls.

The security of uncompromising holiness.

The security of not seeking ungodly compromise that ruins the souls of those who lack a clear Word from God.

The security of speaking truth out of love for souls.

CONCLUSION: When Jesus prays for us to be safe in the world He is not praying for what we think.

Not for temporal ease, popularity, lack of conflict or a false sense of peace in the world.

He is praying for the safety that comes from being on the winning side in the great and cosmic conflict between Christ and His church against the Devil and the World.

Sermon Notes

November 27, 2011 AM
Pastor Mike Ross
“Safe in the World”
John 17:13-16

What do you think is Jesus’ Number 1 concern for His sheep as He prays in John 17?

That we would not lose our Spirit-given joy!

What is the only thing that can rob us of this joy?

The world.

INTRODUCTION: The recent scandals at Penn State University have unsettled many, many people...and rightly so.

At Christ Covenant Church we take very, very seriously the physical and spiritual safety of our Covenant Children.

If we love our children this much so protect them, how much does our Heavenly Father love us, His children? And how much more will He protect us?

Our spiritual (and physical) safety is of high priority to God.

And the reason we *know* that this is true is because Jesus prays for us!

Jesus wants us to know that while He leaves us in this world, the Holy Spirit will keep us safe in His grace.

I. THE SAFETY OF SUPERNATURAL JOY (John 17:13)

When Jesus says, “*..and these things I speak in the world...*” He is making reference not to His prayer but to His Upper Room Discourse, of which John 17 is the concluding prayer.

Jesus is concerned about **danger #1** for Christians in the world: The loss of their Spirit-given joy.

Jesus is **not** worried that His disciples will defect from Him and deny the Father. He has already asked God that we be “*kept in the Name*” (eternally secure in grace).

No, His main concern is this: **He does not want His disciples to lose their joy!**

A fair question: “*Why do young people show such joy and excitement in their immature, raw and unschooled faith while older, mature, informed Christians lose their joy?*”

The world.

Worldliness always brings with it the loss of joy.

Concern over income, career, homes, retirement, health care, portfolios, and *making life comfortable in the world.*

When you gave your life to Christ you made a covenant with God. And God is displeased when you take that life back and give it to the things of this world.

God is jealous over you.

When you give yourself to worldly things, God will remove your joy, until you return to Him.

II. THE SAFETY OF MORAL COURAGE (John 17:14)

When the Gospel pulled us out of the world and into the Kingdom of God, we became a threat to the world order and a living witness against the world system.

And the world **hates** people like that!

Under the pressure to compromise on our witness we can forfeit our *moral courage* in order to regain our popularity in the world.

Moral Courage, found only in the Gospel, enables us to move the men of the world closer to the Kingdom of God, rather than make the church popular with the world.

We are involved in a huge tug-of-war between us (the Church) and the world.

The world is trying to *leverage* us with the fulcrum of popularity and the lever of moral compromise.

The Church is trying to *leverage* the world with the fulcrum of the Gospel and the lever of moral courage.

If the world prevails—two sad things—spiritual danger and a loss of you.

If the Church prevails—two great blessings—safety in Christ and the joy of salvation.

III. THE SAFETY OF DIVINE ENGAGEMENT (John 17:15)

The world is passing away, and its lord, Lucifer, has been defeated; but Satan still possesses great power to harm the Church and its saints.

When Jesus teaches us to pray in the Lord’s Prayer: “*Deliver us from (the) evil (one),*” He is not recommending any disengagement from the world.