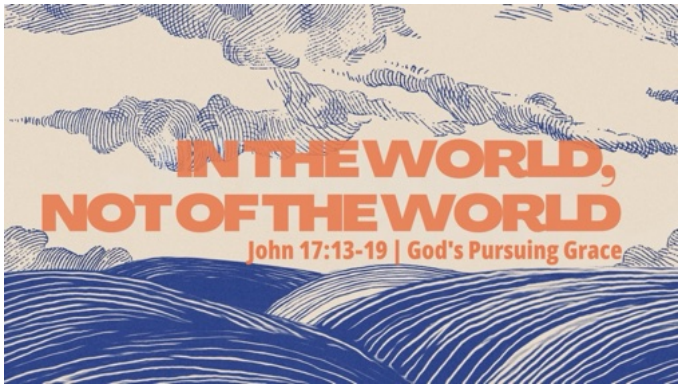
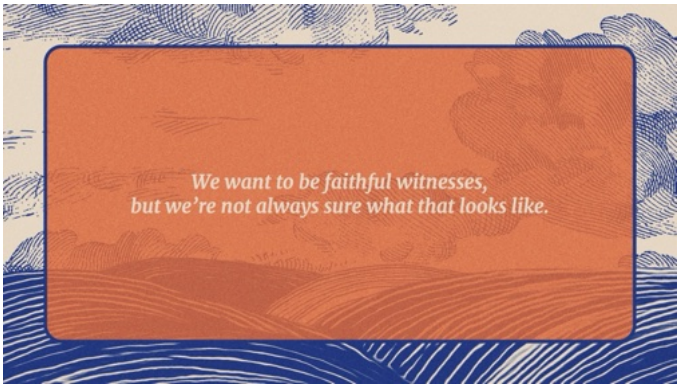
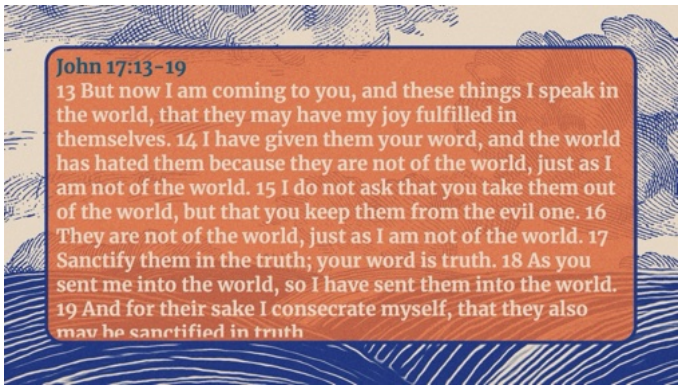
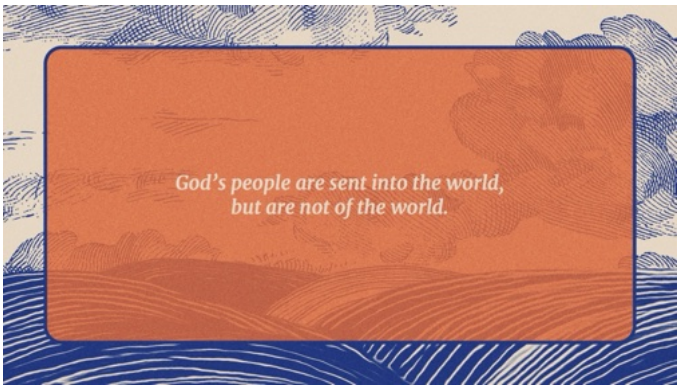
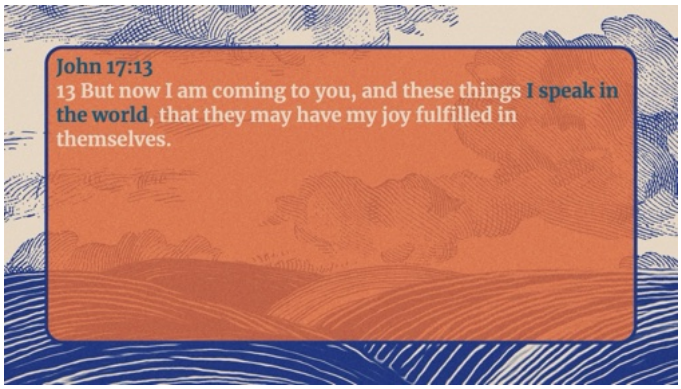

IN THE WORLD,
NOT OF THE WORLD
John 17:13-19 | God's Pursuing Grace


We want to be faithful witnesses,
but we're not always sure what that looks like.


John 17:13-19
13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in
the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in
themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world
has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I
am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out
of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16
They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17
Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you
sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.
19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also


God's people are sent into the world,
but are not of the world.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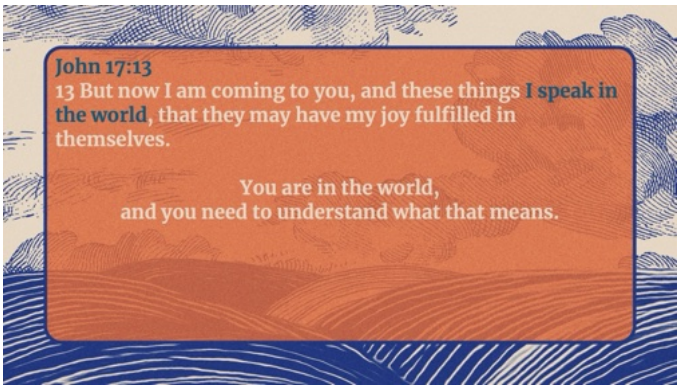
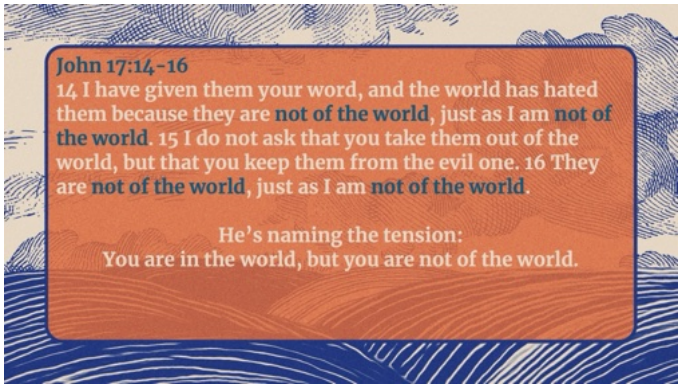
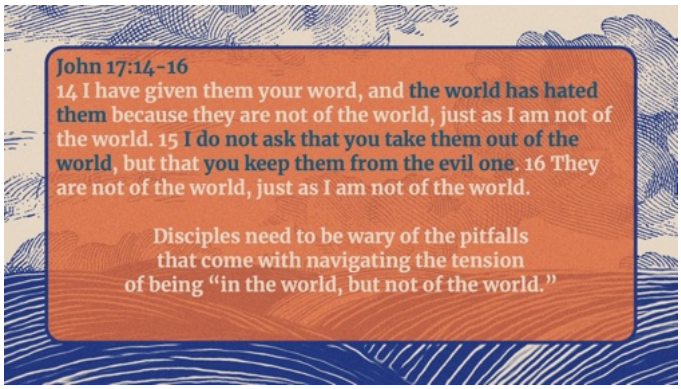

John 17:13
13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in
the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in
themselves.
You are in the world,
and you need to understand what that means.

John 17:14-16
14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are **not of the world**, just as I am **not of the world**. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are **not of the world**, just as I am **not of the world**.

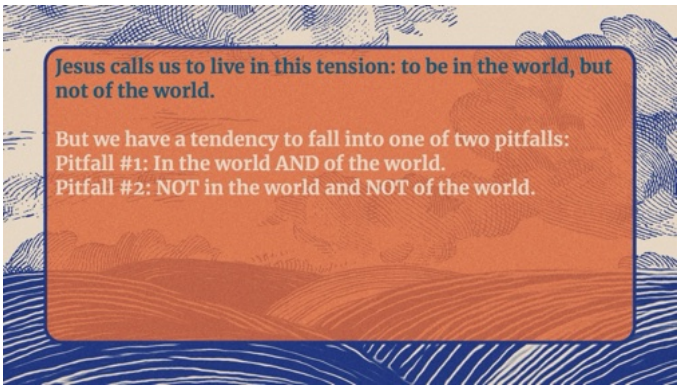
He's naming the tension:
You are in the world, but you are not of the world.





Jesus calls us to live in this tension: to be in the world, but not of the world.

But we have a tendency to fall into one of two pitfalls:
Pitfall #1: In the world AND of the world.
Pitfall #2: NOT in the world and NOT of the world.

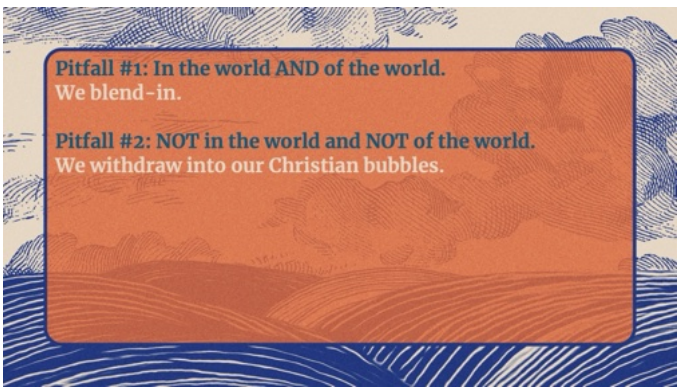


Pitfall #1: In the world AND of the world.
We blend-in.



Pitfall #1: In the world AND of the world.
We blend-in.

Pitfall #2: NOT in the world and NOT of the world.
We withdraw into our Christian bubbles.



How do we keep our balance when we're constantly being pulled toward blending in with the world or retreating into our Christian bubbles?

How do we keep our balance when we're constantly being pulled toward blending in with the world or retreating into our Christian bubbles?

Movement / Missions
John 17:18 As you **sent me** into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

God's people are sent into the world, but are not of the world.

God's people are sent **(engage)** into the world **(like them)**, but are not of the world **(profoundly different)**.

"We will have an impact for the gospel if we are **like** those around us yet **profoundly different and unlike** them at the same time, all the while remaining very visible and **engaged.**" - Tim Keller

God's people are sent (engage) **into the world (like them)**, but are not of the world (profoundly different).

At first glance, Christians should look reassuringly similar to their neighbors. -Tim Keller

God's people are sent (engage) into the world (like them), but are **not of the world (profoundly different)**.

What makes us different?
14 I have **given them your word**, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

God's people are sent (engage) into the world (like them), but are **not of the world (profoundly different)**.

What makes us different?
14 I have **given them your word**, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

The reason they are unlike others is
because you have come to know the person of Jesus.

"I know whom I have believed." (2 Tim 1:12)

God's people are sent (engage) into the world (like them), but are **not of the world (profoundly different)**.

What makes us different?
17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

The Father will immerse Jesus' followers in the revelation of himself in his Son; he will sanctify them by sending the Paraclete, Holy Spirit, to guide them into all truth. -D.A. Carson

He begins to change you

God's people are sent (engage) into the world (like them), but are not of the world (profoundly different).

18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

It's when we're close enough to be known,
yet different enough to be noticed,
that our light shines brightest.

"People were fascinated by it, drawn to it as to a magnet."
-Alan Kreider

Why should we go?

18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.