



## IN THE WORLD

**4.5** We are committed to flourishing in our community.

### BE IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF IT

If you have already completed **KMI 4.4 - Peer Leaders**, you've been introduced to the concept of being **in the world** but **not of the world**. We're going to break that down a little bit more in this lesson so that we understand what those two things really mean and how this concept affects leading in our communities.

**Read John 17. Pay particular attention to verses 14, 16, and 18.**

**Q. In your own words what is Jesus saying about being of the world or in the world?**

### NOT OF THE WORLD

As leaders, we are supposed to represent the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. We are His ambassadors here on earth. (For further study on this aspect of your leadership, look at KMI 0.7 - Ambassadorship.) As such we need to know how to operate in the world but not of the world. So let's look at how Christ saw his own Kingdom and His reign in it.

Speaking with Pontius Pilate, Jesus was asked if he was the king of the Jews. He answered this way:

**John 18:36** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

*The statement, “My kingdom is not of this world,” relates to the origin and nature of Christ’s kingdom, not the location. The authority and power of Christ’s kingdom are drawn from a source outside of this world—from God, our heavenly Father. Christ’s headship is not of human origin but divine.*

*Christ’s kingdom is unlike any on this earth: “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” ([Romans 14:17](#)). Other kingdoms are rooted in the realm of this world, but Christ’s is unique. His kingship is spiritual. It comes down to us from heaven and gives life to the world ([John 6:33](#)). ([Gotquestions.org](#))*

**Read John 18:28-40**

**Q. What do you notice about the exchange between Pilate and Jesus that would affect your leadership in the kingdom?**

As born-again believers, we are no longer just citizens of earth. Our true citizenship is now with Christ in heaven, and this is the King, Kingdom, citizenship, and truth we now represent as ambassadors. We are now the light on a hill, called to shine in the darkness.

*As His followers, Christians are members of His kingdom, which is “not of this world.” We know that “our citizenship is in heaven” ([Philippians 3:20](#)). As a result, we “put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light” ([Romans 13:12](#)). We wage spiritual battle, but “the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world” ([2 Corinthians 10:4](#)). We “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” ([Matthew 6:33](#)). And we rest in the knowledge that our King gives us eternal life: “The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever” ([1 John 2:17](#)). ([Gotquestions.org](#))*

## BUT BE IN THE WORLD

**Q. Since we are no longer of this world, what does it mean to still be “in” it?**

**Matthew 5:14-16** “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. (16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

**John 17:14-15** “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.”

We are born again for a purpose. Our citizenship in the Kingdom of Christ has purpose and that purpose is to glorify God by shining our God-giving light into a dark world. If we are taken out of the world, we can no longer have an effect on it. Jesus left us here to affect the people of this world for His sake, to show the world who He is and so they will hopefully turn to Him for their salvation and join us in representing Him themselves. This is what your leadership in your community is about.

But you are unique, and your leadership is unique. What opportunities do YOU have to let your light shine?

**Q. How has called you to uniquely shine His light into the world?**

## SUMMARY

You were saved into a new citizenship; you are no longer OF this world, but you are reborn to be OF the spiritual Kingdom of heaven. This is your new identity given to you by God Himself. You are still IN this world to shine His light that you now carry into the world. This is now your holy purpose, and you have leadership gifts and skills to uniquely fulfill your purpose. Let your light shine in the darkness!

## LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Create a list of ways you could use your unique servant-leadership to shine into your community:

Now, start praying for opportunities to step into one or two of these ideas.

## RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Book**  
**In, But Not Of: A Guide to Christian Ambition and the Desire to Influence the World**  
by Hugh Huwett  
<https://www.christianbook.com/not-of-christian-ambition-desire-influence/hugh-hewitt/9781595554826/pd/554826?event=AFF&p=1011693&>