

Jonah and your Relationship with the World  
March 24, 2019  
Sermon Notes

Jonah 1:9 ESV

9 And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

Ways of relating to the world

1. Christ against Culture
  2. Christ of Culture
  3. Christ above Culture
  4. Christ and Culture in paradox
  5. Christ transformer of Culture
- From Richard Niebuhr, Christ and Culture

Jeremiah 29:4-7 ESV

4 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

1. Christians and Politics

Jonah 4:2 ESV

2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

Dangers of becoming too aligned with national interest or political party:

1. Adding to the gospel
2. Equating practical wisdom with biblical wisdom
3. Requiring "ethical package deals"

Matthew 25:40 ESV

40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

2. Christians and Society

Matthew 5:44 ESV

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 5:47 ESV

47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Galatians 4:9 ESV

9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

2 Corinthians 5:16 ESV

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

When the one you thought to be "the Other" has not treated you as Other but given himself in love for you, how can you ever treat anyone else as an enemy? The fear and insecurity that generate the need to protect and justify one's self-worth will be gone.

John Piper

### 3. Christians and Mission

Genesis 12:1-3 ESV

1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Hebrews 11:8-10 ESV

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Isaiah 1:17 ESV

17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Proverbs 31:8-9 ESV

8 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

"It is unjust to fail to share with the poor."

Tim Keller

In the end, the book of Jonah is a call to assess how well you love your neighbor.