

CHAP. 5: DISTINCTIVENESS

1. CONTENT

- a. Jesus had a fundamentally different origin and nature than the world (Jn 8:23). Though we were born into this life with the same nature and origin as the kosmos, now we have Jesus' origin and nature because we have been reborn into Him (Jn 3:6ff).
- b. Because of this, we are fundamentally different from the kosmos already. There is an essential enmity between it and us, and its persecution of vital Christians is evidence of this enmity (Jn 15:19; I Pet 4:14). We are "aliens" who can never fit into the world or truly get its acceptance (I Pet 2:11).

2. APPLICATION

- a. It is unnecessary to withdraw from the kosmos because we already have all the protection from it we need (Jn 17:14-17) - a new nature (to make us comfortable only in relationship with God) and the Word of God (to discern the lies of the kosmos).
- b. It is wrong to withdraw from the kosmos because God has put us in it to do a very important job - to rescue others from it (Jn 17:18; I Cor 5:9,10).