

A still life photograph of autumn produce. In the center, a woven basket contains several pumpkins and gourds, including a large white one and a smaller orange one. A dark red apple sits to the left of the basket. In the foreground, a small orange pumpkin and a dark, textured gourd are visible. The entire arrangement is set on a rustic wooden surface, surrounded by scattered brown and orange autumn leaves. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a cozy, seasonal atmosphere.

What Do I Owe the Lost?

Prevailing Denomination View Of Their Duty To The World

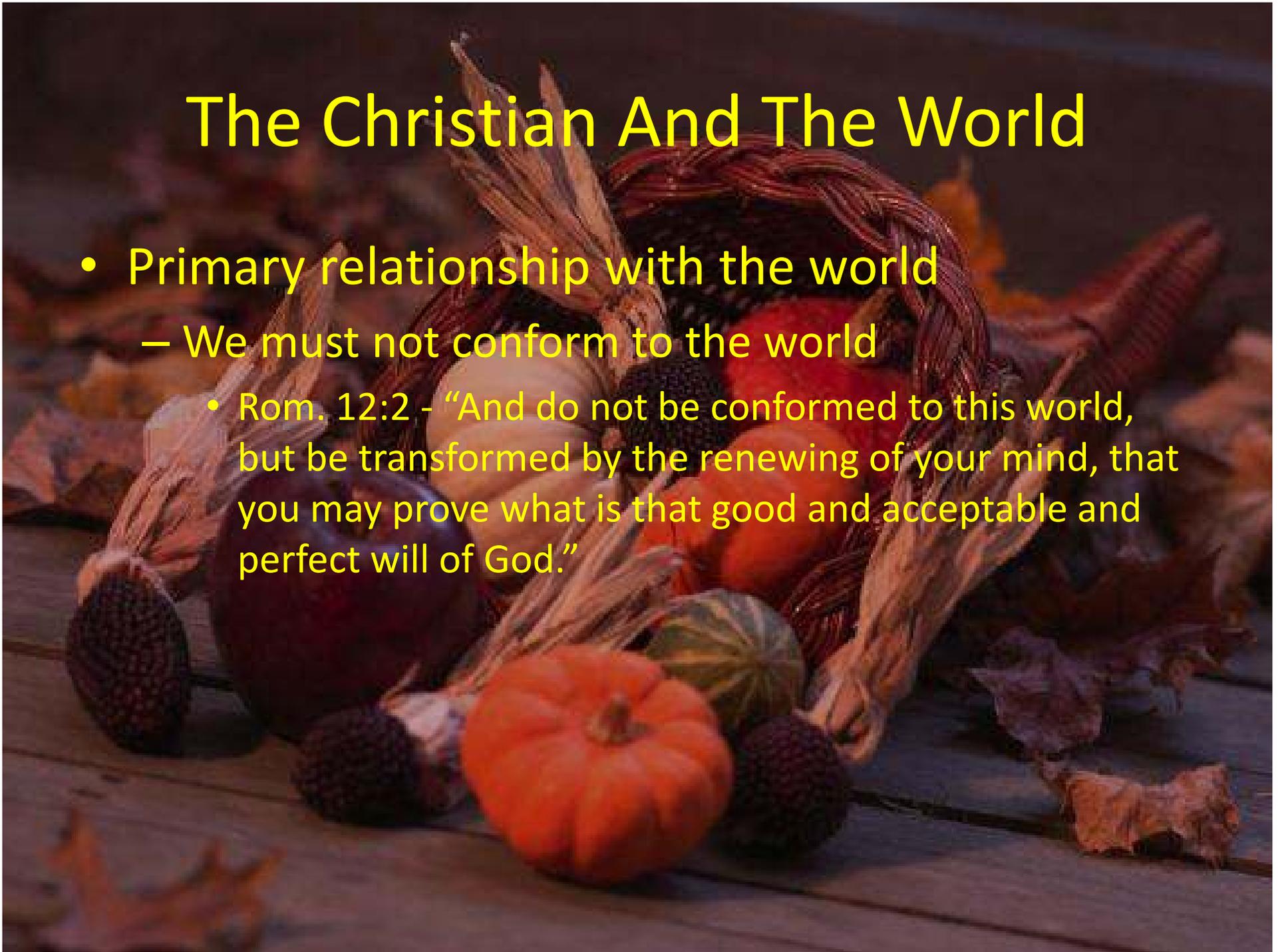
- "We're all working together to progressively build up the kingdom of God in our lifetimes. God has given us the intelligence and conscience we need to create the kingdom among ourselves. We're partners with God."
(2a-b, 3 from The Isthmus, "God's Will Be Done," December 20, 2002, pp. 15-16).
- They believe God's mission for Christianity is to "make the world a better place."

The Christian And The World

- Primary relationship with the world
 - We must be in the world to evangelize it
 - Matt. 28:18-20 - “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The Christian And The World

- Primary relationship with the world
 - We must not conform to the world
 - Rom. 12:2 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”



The Christian And The World

- Commands for individual Christians
 - We are to endeavor to do good to all men
 - Gal. 6:10 - “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
 - Motivated in benevolence
 - Matt. 25:31-46
 - Benevolence defines the Christian
 - James 1:27 - “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

The Christian And The World

- Examples for Christians
 - Jesus - Throughout the gospels, He helps and comforts the poor
 - Emphasis of Paul, Peter, John, James on assisting the poor
 - Gal. 2:10 - “They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.”

The Christian And The World

- Why this level of benevolence? Just for the betterment of our fellow men?
 - Benevolence is a manifestation of the love we ought to have for all men
 - Matt. 22:37-40
 - Should be done without expectation of benefit or reward

The Christian And The World

- Benevolence is not the primary goal; evangelism is
 - Luke 19:10 - “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - To feed our fellow man is good; to save his soul is better
 - Our purpose in benevolence is to let Christ's light shine through us, hopefully convicting the sinner of the better way

The Church And The World

A still life photograph of autumn harvest items. A wicker basket is filled with various pumpkins, gourds, and dried corn cobs. The items are arranged on a wooden surface, surrounded by scattered autumn leaves. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a cozy atmosphere.

- The Church represents the Kingdom of God on earth
 - Rev. 1:6 - “and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever”

The Church And The World

- The Kingdom and the world contrasted
 - John 18:36 - “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here”
 - 1John 2:15-17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

The Church And The World

- Is the church responsible for aiding those in the world?
 - The church is responsible to fund evangelism
 - Phil. 4:14-17 - “Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.”

The Church And The World

- The church is to assist its own
 - 2Cor. 9:1, 12 - “Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you... 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God”
 - 1Tim. 5:9-10, 16 - “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, 10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work... 16 If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.”

The Church And The World

- Why not unlimited benevolence?
 - The Scriptures demonstrate that the church is not an earthly organization, but a heavenly one
 - The church's main goal is to edify and encourage itself while funding its members in their efforts to evangelize
 - Simply put, the church does not have the authority, time, and resources to devote itself to any other action but what God commanded, so that it may be found acceptable and in subjection to its Head.

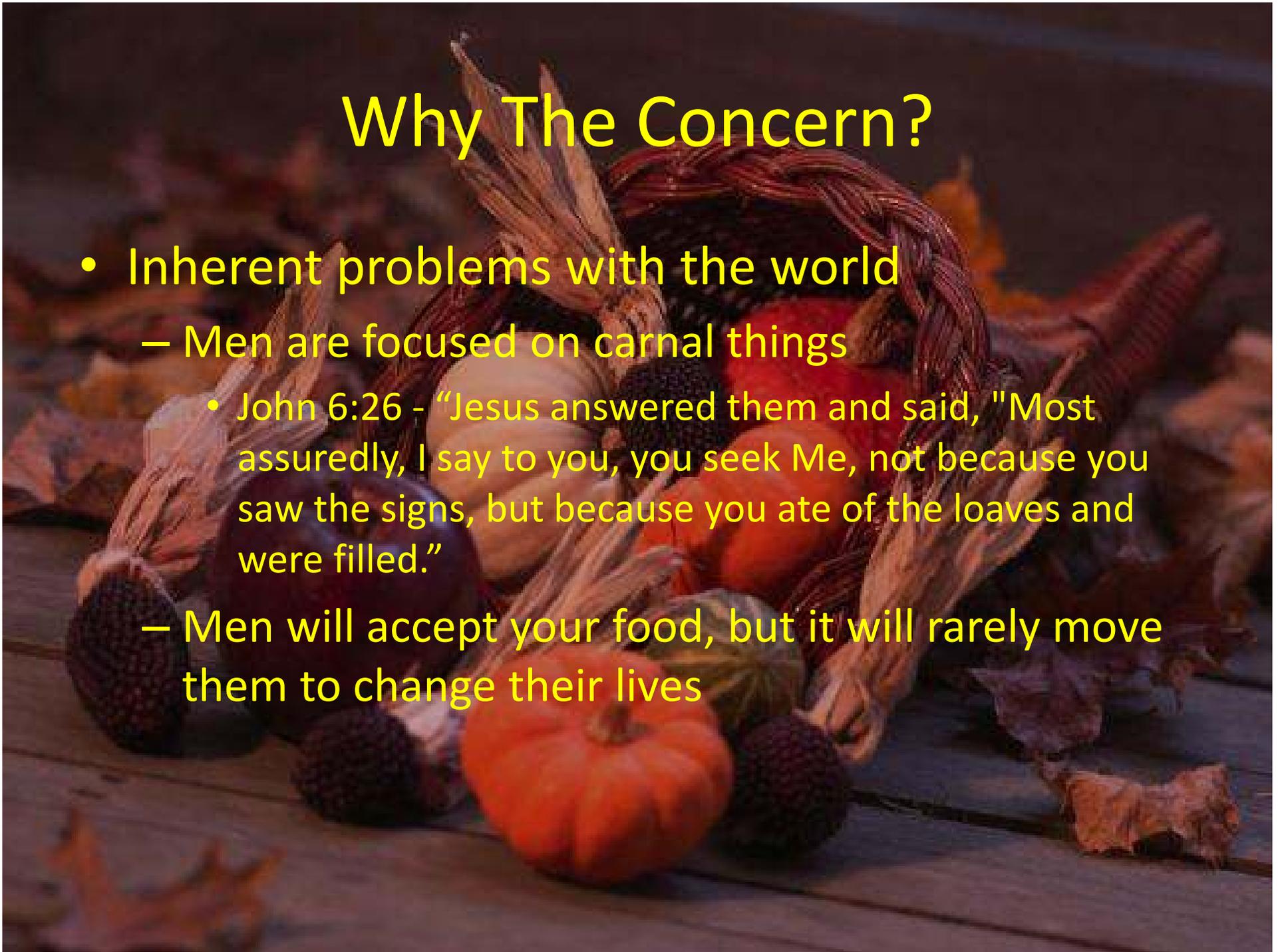
Why The Concern?

- Inherent problems with the world
 - Man has sinned and continues to sin
 - Rom. 3:23 - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - Men have systematically cultivated evil natures
 - Rom. 1:21-32



Why The Concern?

- Inherent problems with the world
 - Men are focused on carnal things
 - John 6:26 - "Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."
 - Men will accept your food, but it will rarely move them to change their lives



Why The Concern?

- Inherent problems with the world
 - The material world will be destroyed
 - 2Peter 3:10-13 - “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Why The Concern?

- Nothing will be left on or of this planet; all of our "good works" will only be, at best, memories
- Only the things done to save the lost will have any meaning in the world to come
- Whether we had three square meals a day will mean nothing to us in heaven or in hell, only those things done or not done that put us there

Why The Concern?

- God has commanded us to invest our energies in the things that last, not those that perish
- We must focus on those things that are eternal, not fleeting
 - 2Cor. 4:18 - “While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
- Therefore, let us work both for ourselves and others for the things that lead to eternal comfort in heaven, not those things that temporarily satisfy on earth.