



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

SHARPLY DIVIDED!

Two marches took place in Washington recently. The unifying theme of the Women's March on January 21 seemed to be opposition to newly inaugurated President Trump. It also touted a multitude of causes spread over a wide spectrum of concerns, including climate change, immigration, LGBT rights, and "women's health issues." The last topic was also addressed by the March for Life on January 27. Some in the conservative media called this "the real women's march," as it was "pro-life" rather than "pro-choice."

TOTALLY UNITED?

The two marches demonstrate the distinct difference between the way we function in secular society and how God expects us to function in the church of Jesus Christ. Secular society is rife with division over many issues, but Christ calls us to recognize that all believers stand on level ground before the cross, with neither ethnic, social, nor gender discrimination taking place. The question for us is whether we are living up to the divine call!

1. Do competing marches, such as those in Washington recently, serve a valid function in America? Explain.
2. To what extent is the church contributing to unity between races? In what ways does the church fail?
3. Is our modern social-class system an appropriate lens through which to view the "neither slave nor free" concept? Explain.
4. How has your church handled the "neither male nor female" issue in terms of leadership and service roles?
5. How can Christians experience unity in Christ if we disagree on these significant issues?

—Charles R. Boatman

<http://www.standardlesson.com/downloads>

Copyright © 2016 by Standard Publishing, Part of the David C. Cook Family. All rights reserved.
Each download is for the use of one church only.