

# *What Is Wrong With Being Worldly?*

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1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Colossians 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

- I. The “world” that is spoken of in all these verses of Scripture is not the created universe, but all that is under the influence and control of Satan and unregenerate human beings.
  - A. Satan is the god of this world. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
    - 1. HE is the master planner of this world system.
    - 2. This includes all that unregenerate men care about: making money, controlling others (power), pleasing themselves.
    - 3. All the powers of government, weapons, propaganda, medicine, money, are under the control of Satan.
    - 4. All the means of influence in this world are in the devil’s hands: communication, entertainment, education, music.
  - B. Jesus made it clear that the problem with men is that they love darkness rather than light; they not only love darkness, but they HATE light. (John 3:19)
  - C. Therefore, all that is in the world stays under the control of the devil, and all evil beings.
  - D. There is nothing to be found in the world’s philosophies, wisdom, education, and religion that does not have its source in darkness.
  - E. Anything we allow from this world system, and those who belong to it, to influence our thinking and our desires is the bait in the trap that Satan has set for us.
- II. As followers of Christ we are to stand; we are to stand for truth and righteousness.
  - A. Jesus made a striking contrast between those that are “of the world” and those who are “NOT of this world.”
    - 1. We are either “of this world” or we are “not of this world.”

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

- B. Any fellowship with the world, or worldly people makes it much harder for us to STAND for right.
- C. Any fellowship with the world, or worldly people makes it much harder for us to DO right.
- D. Any fellowship with the world makes it harder for us to identify the world as the enemy of God and our soul.

Proverbs 12:26 The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

- E. This happens when we do not go to them with a mission and a purpose to help them find God and truth.
- F. When we go to where they are to join in with them and participate in what they are doing we learn more about their ways than they learn about ours.
- G. The same thing happens when a church creates an atmosphere at church that makes them feel comfortable; the church is conforming to the world, which is specifically forbidden by the Word of God (Romans 12:2) and the world remains unchanged.
- H. God has always commanded that his people be separate from the world, Old Testament AND New Testament, and these are the reasons why.

Exodus 23:32-33 Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

### III. What is the proper attitude and boundaries for interacting with the world around us?

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

- A. The people of this world are not our enemies.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

1. The devil is the enemy of our soul and of our God, but he is in control of every means of mass communication and influence in this world.
2. But they are of this world; they are under its influence, they believe in its ways and follow its trends and fads with fanatical devotion.
3. Just being around them and listening to their conversation, seeing their children, and watching them in their daily life, will change your feelings toward them.
4. When your feelings toward them change then you begin to question the truth of God concerning them.

5. They recruit for their cause and delight in bringing any Judas they can find over to their side by whatever means they can use.
- B. We are playing with fire when we open the world's doors of communication and influence to ourselves and our children.

Proverbs 6:27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

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Proverbs 6:29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

1. God considers worldliness to be spiritual adultery and it is the sin that is always likened to apostasy in the Bible.
2. It works the same way.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

- C. Some foolish people would argue that if we love God properly the world would never win us over, and so our insistence on being separate from the world just shows the insecurity we have in what we believe..
1. But the truth of the matter is that the danger is too great, and the enemy too subtle and dishonest.
  2. The whole world lieth in wickedness, and operates almost exclusively in lies and deceit.
  3. Who would test their marriage with such risky business?
  4. Who would risk their children's lives by exposing them to people who would lie to them and offer them any pleasure they wanted?
- D. How could a person who loves God and truth and righteousness find pleasure and companionship among those who hate God and truth and righteousness?
- E. How could a person who is walking in the light have any kind of desire to walk with those who are walking in darkness?
- F. We should have compassion on them.
- G. We should be friend to them and help them in their needs, because Jesus did, and still does.
- H. We should realize that God is not willing that they perish and we should not be willing that they should perish.
1. It should break our heart to realize they are perishing.
  2. We should weep over that fact and do whatever we can to get them to the light.
- I. But we must never put ourselves in a position or a place where their influence over us is greater than ours over them.