

IN THE WORLD NOT OF THE WORLD

You cannot be both a Christian and worldly - James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world IS hatred toward God? Anyone who **CHOOSES** to be a friend of the world **BECOMES** an enemy of God.

Remember, it is not what is done, it is the purpose it is done - Gal 6:7-9- 7 **Do not be deceived:** God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

The love of the world separates us from God. - 1 John 2:15-17 - 15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For **everything in the world**-the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but **the man who does the will of God lives forever**.

Cravings of sinful man – (desires of the flesh) – Current wants of man

Lust of his eyes – (desires of the eyes) – New wants from senses and human point of view

Boasting of what he has and does – (Pride of life) – all about me

Jesus had something else instore for the world other than what we think - Matt 10:34-39 - 34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36 **a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.**" 37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

We are living worldly if we find ourselves living for self instead of God -Rom 8:5-8-5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, NOR CAN IT DO SO. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature CANNOT PLEASE GOD.

The World, what is it?

The origin of the world's corruption is human desire - 2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world CAUSED BY EVIL DESIRES. (Gen 2:15-17 & Gen 3:6-7)

The now, corrupt world is a system that caters to self, in which people need to be rescued from - Eph 2:1-3 -1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways OF THIS WORLD and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are DISOBEDIENT. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Make no mistake, Jesus' kingdom is not of this world - John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

We are supposed to live in the World, representing heaven - 1 Peter 2:11 Dear friends, I urge you, **as aliens and strangers in the world**, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

Satan is the leader of the world, that's why our goal is to pull people out of the world. - 2 Cor 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The world is one big stumbling block - Matt 18:7 "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

America is no exception - Ezek 16:49-50 - 49 "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. 50 They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

Worldly answers vs Godly answers are a matter of life and death - 2 Cor 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Worldly attributes

The world's life-purpose is much different than a God-purposed life - 1 Peter 4:1-3 - Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, **arm yourselves** also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the **will of God**. 3 For **you have spent enough time in the past doing what PAGANS CHOOSE TO DO** — living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

How we act will display what we are - 1 Cor 3:1-3 - Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 **You are still worldly**. For **SINCE THERE IS jealousy and quarreling among you, ARE YOU NOT WORLDLY?** Are you not **acting like mere men?**

The world only loves those of the world - John 15:18-19 - 18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you OUT OF THE WORLD. That is why the world hates you.

A Christian lives to obey Christ, while the world cannot obey Christ - John 14:15-17 - 15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

The dangers of the world

If you live worldly, you are any enemy to Christ - Phil 3:18-19- 18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, **many live as enemies of the cross of Christ**. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. **THEIR MIND IS ON EARTHLY THINGS**.

Worldliness causes us to miss the meaning of the Word and makes us a danger to others (for example) - Matt 16:21-23 - 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "**Never, Lord!**" he said. "**This shall never happen to you!**" 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you DO NOT HAVE IN MIND THE THINGS OF GOD, but THE THINGS OF MEN."

What the world sees as wise, is actually foolishness - 1 Cor 1:20-21 - 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

What the world values, is despicable to God - Luke 16:15 He said to them, "**You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men**, but God knows your hearts. **WHAT IS HIGHLY VALUED AMONG MEN IS DETESTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT**.

If we have the wrong focus (which seems good), it will lead to disastrous outcome - John 12:25-26 - 25 The man who loves his life WILL lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world WILL keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

The world has deceptive doctrine - Col 2:8 **See to it** that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world RATHER THAN on Christ.

- Excluding things & people God does not exclude
- Including things & people God does exclude
- Treating ungodly actions as Godly and ignoring God ordained actions
- Using God for human purposes

We are only safe if we are truly Christians, if not we are controlled by Satan - 1 John 5:18-19 - 18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one CANNOT harm him. 19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

The vulnerable ones are those whose worship is not sincerely for God only - 2 Peter 17-18 - 17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

The world in a Christian's perspective

Jesus' prayer describing Christian's purpose in the world

John 17:6-9 -6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have OBEYED YOUR WORD. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they ACCEPTED THEM. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. **I AM NOT praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.**

John 17:14-20 - 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, **for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world**. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 **They are not of the world, even as I am not of it**. 17 **SANCTIFY THEM BY THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH**. 18 **As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world**. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. 20 "My prayer is **not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message**,"

John 17:23 I in them and you in me. **May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

What is a Christian suppose to be in the world - Matt 5:13-16 - 13 "You are the **salt of the earth**. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. 14 "You are the **LIGHT OF THE WORLD**. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, **let your light shine before men, that they may SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS and PRAISE YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN**."

We are commanded to go out into the world with a purpose - Matt 28:18-20 - 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

So, how are Christians to live in the world?

Our complete life-focus MUST BE Christ - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, NOT BY SIGHT.

Our faith has to be based on God - 1 Cor 2:4-6 - 4 And my speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 6 We speak wisdom, however, among them that are fullgrown: yet a wisdom not of this world, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nought: ASV

Know where we are from - Phil 3:20-21 -20 But **OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

We are to live by Godly patterns not worldly patterns - Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Know the difference between Godly wisdom & worldly wisdom - James 3:13-15 - 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

Don't let self-righteousness stop your ministering to the world - Mark 2:15-17 - 15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

We must relate to the people of the world with the sole purpose to win them - 1 Cor 9:19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

Our ministry has to be done right to be effective and safe - Matt 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

We are all responsible for how we live - 1 Cor 7:23-24 - 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.

We are not to live by the principles of the world NO MATTER HOW WISE THEY LOOK - Col 2:20-23 20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

When it comes to things of the World, Jesus says it perfectly! - Luke 20:24-26 -24 "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?" 25 "Caesar's," they replied. He said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." 26 They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

How to keep from being corrupted by the world

Christian's responsibility is to not allow themselves to be corrupted by the world -James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being POLLUTED BY THE WORLD.

Know that God is in us and is much greater than the world - 1 John 4:4-6 - 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 **They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.** 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

God's Spirit is what will separate us from the World - 1 Cor 2:11-14 - 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

God's Grace instructs us how to separate from the world - Titus 2:11-13 - 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 **It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,** 13 while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

We are to live with a Spiritual quality depending on Grace as our strength - 2 Cor 1:12 - 12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so **not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.**

We must readjust our focus and values - 1 Cor 7:29-31 - 29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For **THIS WORLD IN ITS PRESENT FORM IS PASSING AWAY.**

Escape the Grasp of the world first by Recognize the problem first - Matt 26:41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

As Christians we need to destroy our earthly nature - Col 3:5-7 -5 **Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.** 6 **Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.** 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

We must fight our battles different from the world - 2 Cor 10:3-4 - 3 For though we live in the world, we DO NOT wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

In a nutshell Christians must be Spiritually minded while living in this evil world - Col 3:2-4 - 2 Set your minds on things above, NOT on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.