

1 John 2:15-17 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.* ¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* ¹⁷ *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.*

I. Introduction: Setting Priorities

A. God's view of life (using things and loving people)

1. Love the people of the world
2. Do not love the things of the world

1 Timothy 6:17 *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

John 1:10 *He [Jesus] was in the world, and **the world was made by him**, and the world knew him not [and the world didn't recognize its creator while He was here].*

Luke 9:25 *For what is a man advantaged [For how does it benefit a man], **if he gain the whole world**, and lose himself [and lose his own soul], or be cast away?*

B. The world's view of life (Loving things and using people)

1. Word 'world' used 292 times in Bible
2. Worldly ideas & things always tempting Christians

II. Command of the Apostle

A. Negative command

1. World from Greek word "cosmos" meaning world ideas, institutions, or way of thinking
2. Negative command regarding wrong kind of love
3. Satan (Devil) is god of this world

2 Corinthians 4:4 *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

4. World systems (people & ideas) offers a false love

John 7:7 *The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*

5. World only loves itself – not Christians

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.*

6. Problem of carnal Christians trying to love world

1 Corinthians 3:1, 3 ¹ *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. ...* ³ *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

B. Negative result

1. Christian life is antithesis (opposite) to worldly life

2. God designed Christian life to oppose Satan's kingdom of darkness

3. Friendship with the world is an enemy of God

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.*

4. Love of money root of evil – not money by itself

a. No one can serve two masters – God or money

Matthew 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

b. Love of money replaces love of God

1 Timothy 6:10 *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

c. Money is a tool to use in life – not love it above all else

i. Worldliness is a state of mind – such as buying or selling

James 4:13 *Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

ii. But rather if God wills (or permits Christian to do)

James 4:15 *For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*

III. Consideration of Temptation

A. Seduction of the world

1. Satan baits the hook with enticing lures of temptation

2 Timothy 2:26 *And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

2. Satan also uses spirit of fear to intimidate Christians

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

B. Three lures (baited hooks) of the world

1. Lust of the flesh

- a. Lust of the flesh is satisfying any physical desire in abnormal way

- b. God details many of those lusts so commonly found among human

Galatians 5:19-21 ¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

2. Lust of the eye

- a. Lust of the eye is taking what is pleasing in our vision to excess

- b. Can also be called “eye candy”, or covetousness (abnormal greed)

- i. Having internal conversation: I saw, I want, I will get it anyway I can even if it is forbidden

- ii. Seeing a woman to lust after her

Matthew 5:28 *But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

- iii. Idolatry is anything that replaces God

Colossians 3:5 *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

- iv. David saw & coveted another man’s wife – 2 Samuel 11:2-5

- a) He saw Bathsheba, asked about her, & took her to bed

- b) He murdered her husband Uriah – 2 Samuel 11:15, 12:9

- c) Later his own sons (Amnon, Absalom rebelled against his rule doing the same

3. Pride of life

a. Pride of life is attitude of knowing better than someone else

i. Other words for pride: boasting, haughty, arrogance, egotistical, hubris,

ii. Also known as lovers of their own self

2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

b. Examples of pride of life

i. Tower of Babel to make a name for themselves

Genesis 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

ii. King Nebuchadnezzar's pride in his accomplishments

a) Self-pride ("I", "my") as if by his own power exclusively

Daniel 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

b) Similar to Satan's (Lucifer) own self-pride of his 7 "I will"s

Isaiah 14:12-14 ¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

c. Proper perspective of success

i. King Nebuchadnezzar finally gave credit to God for all things

Daniel 4:37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

ii. God gives the ability to earn a living

Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

IV. Conclusions of Scripture

A. World is temporal

1. Physical earth is temporary

2 Peter 3:10 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

2. Life is temporary compared to air vapor (steam)

James 4:14 *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

3. Life is temporary compared to grass

1 Peter 1:24 *For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*

B. Will of God is eternal

1. God's word (counsel) will stand forever

Isaiah 40:8 *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

2. God is still working inside Christian life

2 Corinthians 4:16 *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

3. Christian life lived according to God's commandments

a. Christian works to be acceptable to God

2 Corinthians 5:9 *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.*

b. Christian earns rewards in heaven for work done on earth

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

V. Conclusion

A. Live your life transformed to God & not in conformity to the world

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.*

B. Flee (run away) from ungodly practices

1. Fornication

1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

2. Idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:14 *Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.*

3. Love of money & discontentment – 1 Timothy 6:6-11

1 Timothy 6:11 *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

4. Youthful lusts

2 Timothy 2:22 *Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

C. God's will for Christian in daily life

1. Part of holy living is your sexual life – keeping it inside marriage

1 Thessalonian 4:3 *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

2. Live a life of thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*