

Worldliness

Introduction

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

- 1. It is so unfortunate that so many Christians become lovers of pleasure, rather than true lovers of God.**
- 2. Every Christian should have their hope squarely focused on Christ and not the pleasures and lust of the world.**

1 John 3:3-4 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

- 3. We sin when we do anything that is not according to God's Holy and inspired Word.**
 - A. It is important that we obey Him in all things because Jesus will judge each one of us one day.**

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

- 4. We must focus on Christ and not be drawn away into the pleasures and worldly things of life such as:**
 - Dancing, Drinking, Gambling, Materialism, Immodesty, Inappropriate TV shows, Movies, Music and also Drugs, Tobacco and any other works of the flesh.**

2. **There are two major problems associated with this subject:**
 - A. **There is worldliness among God's people.**
 - B. **The issue of worldliness often times is not dealt with.**
 - 1) **It is not being preached on.**
 - 2) **Or, it is being preached on – but nothing else is done about it.**

3. **The objective of this lesson is threefold:**
 - A. **To instruct** (my responsibility to inform you of the sin of worldliness)
 - B. **To correct** (your responsibility to make corrections to your life)
 - C. **To prevent** (our understanding of how to abstain from any of these things)

DEALING WITH WORLDLINESS

What Is Worldliness?

1. Webster defines "worldliness" as:

- A. "Of or limited to this world; temporal or secular; devoted to or concerned with the affairs, pleasures, etc. of this world."**

2. The Bible tells us:

1 John 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.** 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. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

3. Worldliness is:

- A. A participation in sin - the sphere of iniquity.**
- 1) the sphere meaning one's walk of life.
- B. Given to a life of following one's passions.**
- C. Living like the world – not being or trying to be separate.**
- D. Living a life devoted to the temporal – not spiritual**

- 4. Again, there are many manifestations of worldliness:**
 - A. Drinking, cursing, smoking, gambling, fornication, lying, immodesty, watching filth, stealing, materialism, etc.**
 - 1) A person who “drinks and curses” IS worldly.**
 - 2) A person can be worldly and not “drink and curse.”**

The Spirit that Worldliness Has and Generates

- 1. The spirit of worldliness becomes soft towards the Word of God and the preaching.**
 - A. Worldly things become accepted in the life of the Christian as just “a part of life.”**
 - 1) However, to the Bible believing, true Christian, it should never become a problem.**

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

2. However, many times there is a softness on moral issues and questions among Christians.

A. The preaching becomes "soft" on these issues. Many are led to believe they are "safe" with God when in reality they are far from it! The preaching does not warn of the danger.

Isaiah 30:9-11 That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Get out of the way, Turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel To cease from before us."

Jeremiah 5:30-31 "An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so...."

Jeremiah 6:13-17 "Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, '**Peace, peace!** When there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD. Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, '**We will not walk in it.**' Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, '**We will not listen.**'"

The Seriousness of Worldliness

1. Why is it so important for all Christians to know the seriousness of worldliness?

A. We can let God Himself answer that question!

1) It separates us from God.

James 1:15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

2) One loses their good reputation.

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Proverbs 6:33 Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away.

3) One loses their influence for good.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

4) It hinders our worship.

John 9:31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God **and does His will**, He hears him.

5) It desensitizes us to sin.

Psalms 1:1-3

6) Our heart becomes hardened

Hebrews 3:12-13 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be **hardened through the deceitfulness of sin**.

7) It breeds other sins (2 Samuel 11).

a) **David and Bathsheba – lust to fornication, to lying, to murder!**

8) It leads to disfellowship.

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (Read v.7)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 (Read v.6-7, 14-15)

9) It hinders our race and growth.

Hebrews 12:1-2

10) It leads to eternal damnation

Romans 6:23 **For the wages of sin is death.....**

The Christian Life in Contrast to Worldliness

1. A life of holiness.

1 Peter 1:15-16 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 4:1-3 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

2. A life of purity.

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

3. The law by which the Christian lives.

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

4. Will NOT continue to sin.

Romans 6:1-6

5. Has a genuine respect for the Word of God.

Psalms 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

6. Desires to be separate from the world.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

Conclusion

- 1. Truly there is worldliness even among God's people today.**
- 2. Worldliness must be preached on and action is needed to correct and prevent it.**
 - A. We all must have a willing and submissive heart to do God's will in all aspects of life.**
 - 1) If we have sinned, we need to repent and then strive to practice that which is right in God's sight.**
- 3. To come to terms with worldliness and ridding it from our lives we must WANT to do so - in order to become the proper example of Christ.**
- 4. May we all strive to live the Christian life apart from worldliness.**

