

2. The world is transitory. V. 17-A

The world passes away. The power of excitement and desire and lust pass away. The world leaves us behind. The bible tells us that there is nothing in this world that lasts. Even you change. Friends change. Your views and taste change. Like the acorn, that becomes a mighty oak. A few years and we pass away. We are like grass, growing up to wither. The joys of this world pass away. We may drink deep of pleasure and we may set out to enjoy the flesh. But, soon we will lose all of that. And, the joy will be gone. We may lust after the gambling table, but soon we recognize that this passes away. There is but one stationary thing in life and that is God. The world plays havoc with our loyalties. It weakens our will because no man can serve two masters or else he will hold to the one and despise the other.

3. The world does not satisfy. V. 17-B

This is a tragic thing about worldliness. People learn this lesson when often it is too late. They find that when they come to the end of their days, worldliness has not satisfied the soul's deepest longings. There are a multitude of people who will say, "If I had my life to live over again, I would live it in a different way". They have been clinging to life and to the lusts of the flesh and they suddenly discover that there is nothing lasting about the choice they made. Of course, a tree is hard to uproot when the roots are deep in the earth. And so, the Christian, must be grounded in love for God. The Christian should not speculate. He should not have to debate as to what his action will be concerning worldliness. Because, what you have done for Christ is the only permanent thing. The Christian is the only one who will rest from his labors. The world looks at all of this and says, let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. But, the Christian looks at this and says, this is not the end. We have a better thing ahead. This is God's world and the future will be more blessed than the present.

Of course, the hindrance to the solution of this problem is the indifference of Christian people. It is so easy to travel the path of least resistance. We live, day after day, lacking spiritual power and yet it never troubles us

WORLDLINESS  
I John 2:15-17

Introd.

Religion goes deeper than just a few outward acts. It involves a state of the heart. The Church at Ephesus in the book of Rev. was condemned, "Thou hast left thou first love". The outward acts were promising but the eternal portion was corrupt. The Christian who loves the Father is the one who hates the world. Now to put a boundary line on the world is quite difficult. There are many things that are wrong and there are many things that are harmless. There are many things that should be avoided and yet on the other hand there are lots of things that we ought to do. What is worldliness?

I. Discovering the nature of worldliness

Worldliness has been confused by many people. It is thought to be this or that. For ex.,

1. the natural earth

The green grass and the hills and the valleys. This is not the world that is prohibited. Because, thru the world in the realm of nature, we come to know God as he works through our minds love and justice. He was represented by Jesus and God appears to us through our senses and the powers that he has given us. This world is a place where God placed man. We may stand and look into the heavens and visualize the stars or the lightning or we may look to the mountains and view the rocks. But, this is an idea of material things. They have been here for years and years. Would we say that these are forbidden things. Things that the eye can see. Of course, the earth brings forth thorns and weeds. And, the lightning destroys. But, all of this is the Father's world.

2. man that live in the world

There are others who believe that worldliness is made up of men who command and run the world. They rob God of his rightful place and they worship man. They should love man even as they love themselves. Quite often you hear someone say, why should I want to be a Christian? and a church member? Just look at so and so. You couldn't open the church doors without him and he is no different

from me. You can't tell which side he is on.

3. Occupation

There are those who would define worldliness in line with the trade or the profession at which they work. But, a trade or profession that is lawful and honest, really should include a man's religion. For ex., a lawyer. He could use his profession for personal greed but his occupation is to discover whether a thing is right or wrong and to uphold human life that has been mixed up in error. And, of course, you could not say that this is worldliness nor could you take a soldier's trade - who gives his life to his country - because there is work to do.

4. A real definition of worldliness is determined by the spirit of a life.

It is not the lust or the eye or the life which are forbidden but it is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of the life. It is not the earth in which man lives, nor is it man himself, nor the work he does, but it is the lust of the flesh, where his affections are centered. The emotions of an hour, V.16

Lust - MARK 4:19 - Eye - Matt 5:28 - Pride - Luke 12:21

Worldliness consists of about three things:

First - attachment to the outward. Second - attachment to the transitory and things - attachment to the material.

Our scripture text says, if a man love the world, if we could but see the King in all of his glory, all of these other things would fade away. Have you ever wondered whether a thing was right or wrong? Have you ever wanted a thing more than all else in the world? Have you decided to make that your life's work and fail to consider God?

Generally we apply the term worldliness to the un-Christian as well as the Christian. But, I believe that this is somewhat incorrect because the non-Christian is by nature a child of this world. And the Christian, by nature, a child of the spirit. So, really, the term worldliness applies to the Christian way of life. And, instead of being changed, he is conformed to the old nature. Therefore, worldliness is sin. Worldliness is conforming to this present world. Worldliness is world-likeness.

Worldliness is an enemy between the Christian and God. We might consider it the very opposite of spirituality. It is a force that sidetracts the Christian and gets him to major on the temporal. It is a cancer, eating out his life with indifference. Worldliness leads people away from God and can be defined by many, many, evidences.

II. The reasons why the love of the world is forbidden

1. Not comparable with God V.15

The love of this world could never measure up to what the love of God can do for us. When love is displaced, we are the losers. Because, the world cannot offer what God can offer. Of course, we seek our own enjoyment. We become attached to the outward things in life. But, God does not want his children to be worldly. For he says, "Be not conformed by this world but be ye transformed". The world seems to offer fun and oftentimes we look at worldly people and say that they get along about as well as we do. We become envious. But, we know that their joy is for but a season. Even christian young people feel that the world offers to them a great deal in the way of pleasure. In the my covenant series, a story is told of a mother who visited a B.S.U. secretary where her daughter was in school. They discussed the trends on campus, the activities, dances, rush parties, smoking, cheating, peeing. She seemed more concerned about smoking than anything else. Why, she said, I know my daughter doesn't smoke. That couldn't happen. She is popular and may do a few things that are unbecoming to a christian, but I know she doesn't smoke. A few hours later the student secretary visiting on the campus dropped in on a serenity meeting, and saw the daughter doing just that. Furthermore, the daughter made campus social activities pre-eminent and was casual about matters of principle and was not active in the church. Even though her mother said, Her heart is in her church, but her time is so taken up with other things. It seems to me that worldliness deadens the conscience and we neglect spiritual interest and lose spiritual power. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect." He doubtless meant, that the Christian was to do his best without compromise. It is hard for us to be perfect. But, we can be perfectly honest, truthful, loyal, and sincere.

at all. We know that ans. of people place everything on the temporary, passing pleasure, thoughtless of what may come tomorrow.

Your attitude should be one of courage and honesty.  
We should realize that if we will settle this issue once and for all we must have the courage of Daniel to stand up and face opposition.

We must accept the challenge and stand fast. The whole idea that governs our life should be the rule of Christ. It seems to me that the most distinguished thing about the Christian should be that he is different from the world - in spirit, in deed. we are not different, what right do we have to take our place in the ranks of Christ? We must be concerned that we do not leave the impression that we are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. God forbid that we should glory in anything but in the cross of Christ.

What is the objective of my life? What am I here for anyway? Am I here just to have ~~XXXXXX~~ a good time? In a world that is filled with sin and suffering, it is not just enough to give my heart to Christ, we must think of our character and must not be slaves of pleasure but servants of the king. We must not while our time away but we must redeem the time. There are many other reasons that we might set forth but I believe that this closing one as John reveals it to us will satisfy our hearts in the world in which we live and also in the world to which we must go. Because he says in (v. 17) "So that death the will of God, abideth forever." And our interests is in something that is permanent.

John. 17:11, 15-17 Problem he in  
world not part of us

you Make The Choice!