

Great Test of Worldliness

Jas. 4:4,5

Jas. 4:4,5 “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”?”

I. Symptom of Worldliness

A. Love of World

1 Jn. 2:15,16 “Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves 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 boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

1.) Lust of the Flesh

Gal. 5:19-21 “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

sexual sins: immorality, impurity, sensuality

sins of false worship: idolatry, sorcery [witchcraft] trying to get things by charm

sin of pride: disputes, dissensions, factions, envy,

sins of excess: drunkenness, carousing

These will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Cor. 6:9-11 “Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.”

sexual sins: fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, homosexuals,

sins of greed: thieves, covetous, swindlers

sins of excess: drunkenness

sins of malice: revilers

These will not inherit the kingdom of God; you were washed, justified, & sanctified from these.

1 Pet. 4:3-5 “For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

4 And in *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign *you*;

5 but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

sexual sins: sensuality, lusts

sins of excess: drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties,

sins of false worship: idolatries

These will face the Lord in judgment.

1 Cor. 10:5-10 “Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

6 Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.

7 And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY."

8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.

10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.”

craved evil

idolaters

immorality

testing the Lord

grumbling

These were destroyed in the wilderness.

2.) Lust of the Eyes

do not look to lust

Matt. 5:27-29 “You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';

28 but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

29 And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

eyes full of adultery

2 Pet. 2:14 “having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children”

But out our look at much more than just sexual things.

3.) Boastful Pride of Life

I'll do what I want because I want to.

Gen. 3:6 “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

This is not always a sin by itself, but a motivation to do the others.

This attitude allows you to get full enough of yourself to do the other sinful and stupid things mentioned previously.

B. Lack of Spiritual Interest

These are all “sins of omission.”

1.) No Prayer

Prayer is a great test of faith. Many don't do it because they don't believe in it, or see immediate, tangible results.

Eph. 6:18 “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints”

As part of the full armor of God

Col. 4:2 “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*”

This is seen a lack of personal prayer, even giving thanks for food, discontinuance of prayer meetings, impatience with long public prayers.

When prayer was banned from schools religious folks were shocked that such a right was taken away, yet many voluntarily forgo it constantly for a lack of concern.

2.) Lack of Bible Study

there is a complete lack of scriptural knowledge in the world

there is astounding ignorance among the "religious"

there is great lack of Bible knowledge among the brethren.

Why such ignorance?

Compare time spent reading to time watching TV.

Compare time reading other things to time spent in Bible study.

Hos. 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."

Acts 17:30,31 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,

31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

God overlooked the time of ignorance and sent Christ – He did not send Him to reinstitute ignorance.

3.) Poor Attendance

Heb. 10:24,25 "and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."

To many everything thing else seems more important.

Little League, Scouts, Hunting, Camping, the big game, work, company, etc. etc.

4.) "Religious" Formalism

worship because we always have, mom & dad do, just what we've always done

today's ultimate example - Catholicism & mainstream Protestantism

Isa. 1:4 "Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, Offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the LORD, They have despised the Holy One of Israel, They have turned away from Him."

Thus they are abandoned the Lord.

But they still kept up appearances, still kept going through the motions

Isa. 1:10-15 "Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah.

11 What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams, And the fat of fed cattle. And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs, or goats.

12 When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?

13 Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies--I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.

14 I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me. I am weary of bearing *them*.

15 So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*, I will hide My eyes from you, Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood."

II. Consequences of Worldliness

A. Sin

Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Jas. 1:14,15 “But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

This will cause you to be involved in the things included on the lists of sins we’ve already looked at.

Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 10:5-10 ; 1 Pet. 4:3-5

B. Progressively Worse

No growth – but decline

No strength – but weakness

No help – but hindrance

No encouragement – but discouragement

go from bad to worse

2 Tim. 3:13 “But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Gen. 3:6-13 Sinned, tried to blame it on others Inadequate Cover Up , Hid, Blamed: Adam » Eve, Eve » serpent

Gen. 4:1-10 Cain sinned, got upset, was jealous of his brother, killed him, lied to God

Gen. 37 Joseph’s brothers - jealous, conspiracy, murder planned, brother sold, lied to father

Rom. 1:21-32 sin gets worse and worse and worse, progression carried to its full end

Pagan world at time of Christ - laying out babies, temple prostitutes, homosexual and perverted emperors, killing of innocents spectator sport, etc.

Today - love of world » apathy to spiritual

materialism » stingy giving

doing something wrong » lying to cover

cares of the world » attendance suffers

going to bars » immorality

III. Cure For Worldliness

A. Proper World View

Rom. 12:1,2 “I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

We cannot be conformed to this world, but transformed beyond it.

This World Will Burn But the Next Is Eternal.

This world and its lust are passing.

1 Jn. 2:16,17 “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.”

The earth will be destroyed - so what manner of people ought we to be?

2 Pet. 3:10-14 “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless”

This is where we are to be looking.

2 Cor. 4:16-18 “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

2 Cor. 5:7 “for we walk by faith, not by sight”

B. Choose Your Friends Carefully

1 Cor. 15:33 “Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

Friendship with world is... OR “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Do your friends give encouragement?

Heb. 3:13 “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called “Today,” lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Do your friends entice you to do evil?

Prov. 1:10 “My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.”

Ps. 1:1 “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!”

C. Live By Faith

We do this by constantly looking to Jesus.

Heb. 12:1-3 “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.”

Heb. 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

Heb. 10:38,39 “BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.”

Isa. 1:18-20 “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

19 If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land;

20 But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword.” Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

God offered to reason with them and cleanse them if they would submit and obey, or destroy if they refused.