

Subj: Worldliness

Text: 1 John 2:14-17

Meth: Textual

Titl: What is Worldliness?

G.Pp: Biblically identify and define worldliness

S.Pp: Show how worldliness is really an attack on the church, encourage to combat it and instruct how.

Thesis Sentence: Worldliness is not restricted to those “in the world,” but is also among the most troublesome challenges in the church.

Introduction:

- A. Subject of “worldliness” is a widespread cause of confusion in and out of the church
 - 1. Many view it subjectively, and its definition varies from person to person
 - 2. Conflicting ideas leave many bewildered & confused, esp. young people
- B. Every Christian must be able to distinguish between worldliness and godliness
 - 1. Ignorance of biblical teaching may result in godly people being accused of wickedness (Mat. 11:19--)
 - 2. May also result in wickedness being paraded as godly (Isa. 5:20--)

I. Why should Christians be concerned about worldliness?

- A. In the Bible the “world” does not always refer to that which is evil and to be avoided
 - 1. Jn. 3:16--God so loved the world... (the people of the world)
 - 2. 1 Jn. 2:14-17--Love not the world... (the system contrary to God, in voluntary submission to Satan)
 - 3. Jn. 15:19--I chose you out of the world...(the system)
 - 4. Jn. 17:15--I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world... (the place)
 - a. Disciples are not to follow the ways of the world
 - b. Disciples must live among the people of the world
- B. Because God says it is destructive to the soul
 - 1. Jesus clearly distinguished his lifestyle from that which was common in the world
 - a. Jn. 17:14--I am not of this world.
 - b. Gal. 1:4--
 - c. Jas. 1:27; 4:4--
 - 2. We are taught to expect to be and desire to be different from what is common in the world
 - a. Rom. 12:1-2--
 - b. Tit. 2:11-12--
 - 3. The redeemed are those who have “...escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust (2 Pet. 1:4).
- C. Because it is of the Satan, our destructive adversary (1 Pet. 5:8), described as:
 - 1. The god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
 - 2. The deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9)
 - 3. The prince of this world (Jn. 12:31)
 - 4. The “evil one” in whom “the whole world lieth” (1 Jn. 5:19)
- D. Each Christian is subject to attack
 - 1. Satan desired to sift Peter as wheat (Lk. 22:31)
 - 2. The appeal of the world enticed Demas to forsake his coworkers, and his labor for the Lord (2 Tim. 4:10)
 - 3. If we submit ourselves to God, the Devil will flee from us (Jas. 4:7)

II. Worldliness defined in 1 Jn. 2:14-17

- A. Love of the world
 - 1. Affection for that which is natural above, and of more value than the spiritual
 - 2. Preoccupation with ideas, programs, activities, centering around things human, and which belong to this present world

III. B. The love of the things of the world

1. Lust of the flesh -- what is done with the body
 2. Lust of the eyes -- what is done with the mind, since the eyes are gateways to the mind
 3. Pride of life -- what is done with the will, since pride is a sin of the will
- C. Consequently, worldliness centers in the body, mind and will of man
1. Worldliness is more than what one does, it is what one loves
 2. It is anything that one may love, or do, with the body, the mind, or the will, that prevents one from partaking of God's love and doing his will
- D. Some examples:
1. Mat. 4:8-9-- Satan tried to tempt Jesus through the flesh, mind and will with offers of wealth, power and glory.
 - a. Jesus resisted and overcame
 - b. If our most affectionate desires are for wealth, power and fame, are we worldly, or are we godly?
 2. Mat. 6:24-34--When one is obsessed with the cares of this life, is he worldly or godly?
 3. 2 Tim. 4:6-10--Paul was ready to lay down his life, but Demas ran for his. Which was worldly and which was godly?
 4. Phil. 3:17-21--those who mind earthly things are worldly
 - a. When we are motivated and governed by self-interest
 - b. When decisions are made for self gratification--what's in it for me?
 5. Col. 3:1-2--Godly has affections set on things above, and not upon the earth
- E. Lust is involved in worldliness
1. Lust = Gk. *epithumia*: desire for that which is forbidden (cf. Rom. 6:12; 1 Pet. 1:14; 2 Pet. 2:10)
 2. Lust is not appreciation for that which is beautiful, or desire for that which is not forbidden
 - a. All people have drives and desires which seek for satisfaction
 - b. Whether they become lust depends upon they are fulfilled by that which is authorized, or by that which is forbidden
 - c. Example: all hunger--some fullfill by labor, some by theft

IV. How to overcome worldliness

- A. The only way to win is through Jesus Christ
1. Phil. 4:13--all things can be done through Christ
 2. 2 Cor. 2:14--he causes us always to triumph
 3. Rom. 8:37--we are more than conquers through him
 4. Since worldliness centers in body, mind and will, then body, mind and will must be in submission to Christ (Rom. 12:1-2)
- B. Psa. 119:11--The word must be laid up within the heart
1. "It is written..." was Jesus' greatest weapon against Satan
 2. The same powerful word is at our disposal (Eph. 6:17)
 - a. Gal. 5:34--crucify the flesh with its passions and lusts
 - b. Gal. 5:16--walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh
 - c. Rom. 13:14--make no provision to fulfill the lust of the flesh
 - d. 1 Cor. 10:13--realize that no temptation is without a way of escape
(THE DEVIL CANNOT MAKE US DO IT!)
- C. Jas. 1:14-15--Avoid anything that will give occasion to be tempted and drawn away by lust:
1. The places we go
 2. The people we seek out for association
 3. The literature, or other information or entertainment, we seek
 4. The conversation we engage in

5. The things we do with our bodies (ie: dancing, petting)

Conclusion:

- A. Lk. 6:45--
- B. 1 Pet. 2:11--Abstain from fleshly lust that war against the soul
- C. If we would go to heaven, we must be concerned about worldliness
 1. We must know what it is
 2. We must expect and desire to be different
- D. We must understand that worldliness lies within the domain of Satan
 1. We must take care not to love that which "lieth in the evil one" above that which lies in Christ
 2. The only way to victory is through Christ--body, mind and will in submission to him
- E. Come to Jesus and stay with him
 1. Fill your heart with his word, do his work, abide in his love
 2. Abstain from every appearance of evil, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof
 - a. Watch where you go
 - b. Take care with whom you prefer to associate
 - c. Seek out and accept only wholesome entertainment
 - d. Watch your conversation
 - e. Be careful what you do
 3. But above all, come to Jesus