

“If Anyone Loves The World”

1 John 2:15

Introduction:

- A. Can we love anything in this world? A sunset? Singing bird? Beautiful scene?
- B. Must we reject everything in this world? Comforts? Conveniences? Modern inventions?
- C. Could it be that world has different meanings?
- D. If anyone loves the world, he loves:

Discussion:

I. “The Lust of the Flesh.”

- A. Desiring things unconditionally forbidden. (Gal. 5:19-21)
- B. Desiring things conditionally forbidden. (Cf. 1 Cor. 8:9-13; 10:6).
- C. Desiring things intemperately (cf. 1 Cor. 9:25).
 - 1. One can be controlled by desire for food, clothing, etc — rather than being in control.
 - 2. One can be controlled by desire for hobby, recreation, etc. — even work.

II. “The Lust of the Eye.”

- A. Forbidden fruit in Eden was “pleasant to the eyes.” (Gen. 3:6).
- B. Lot’s choice of land began with the eyes. (Gen. 13:10)
- C. David’s sin with Bathsheba began with eyes. (2 Sam. 11:2).
- D. Looking up at a woman to lust (Matt. 5:28).
- E. Theft, shoplifting, etc. often begins with the eyes.
- F. Advertising capitalizes on lust of the eye.

III. “The Pride of Life.”

- A. The pride of being fashionable can lead to sin. (Cf. Rom. 12:1,2).
 - 1. In appearance.
 - 2. In speech.
 - 3. In behavior (life-style).
- B. The pride of notoriety can lead to sin. (Matt. 23:5).
 - 1. Whatever gets attention.
 - 2. Often motive behind acts of service to God and man.
- C. The pride of power and prestige can lead to sin. (Cf. Acts 12:21-23; 1 Pet. 5:3)
 - 1. Not to serve, but dominate.
 - 2. See things not as means for good, but for prestige.
- D. The pride being righteous can lead to sin. (Lk. 17:10; 18:10-14).
- E. Ethnic, social and/or economic pride can lead to sin. (Gal. 2:11,12; Rom 12:16).

Conclusion:

- A. “Worldliness” is subtle — often hard to define and detect.
- B. “Worldliness” was as old as man — Adam and Eve used all three avenues.
- C. “Worldliness” can be avoided by seeking first the kingdom of God. (Mt. 6:33).