

WHAT IS THE WORLD?

In the New Testament, the term "world" is used in three different ways.

1. The _____ Earth

Acts 17:24 NIV - *"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands."*

2. _____ in General

John 3:16 NIV - *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son..."*

3. An _____ that operates under the control and dominion of Satan.

- This represents all that is unpleasing to God, everything that is opposed to His teachings, and anything that is under the dominion and control of Satan.
- The world is an _____ of Christ and His church.
- The world is in opposition with the _____ and plan of God.
- Satan is called the _____ of this world.
- We, as disciples, live _____ the world but are not _____ the world because we belong to our victorious King Jesus.
- As disciples, we are to _____ conforming to the patterns of this world and live as Christ lived.

Ungodly systems and ungodly cultures.

As a Christian it is extremely important to have balance in dealing with the world. We have to have the balance of living **IN** the world and **AMONG** the world while rejecting the ways **OF** the world.

NOTES

1 John 2:15-17 ESV - *"15 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. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."*

THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH

1. Our _____ physical bodies.

- It refers to the body's needs and cravings that in and of themselves are not wrong.

2. Our _____ nature.

- This is the part of us that wants to take our natural desires and sinfully exploit them to an extreme.
- Simply put, the world's way is to take gifts from God and *make them* god; the center of our lives.
- How to win:
 - Set up _____ where you know you are weak.
 - Invite _____ people in to provide accountability.
 - Stand in the _____.

THE DESIRES OF THE EYES

1. "Desires of the eyes" is _____.

- The lust of eyes causes us to be dissatisfied with what we have.
- How to win:
 - Be _____ in knowing Christ.

Philippians 4:11-12 ESV - *"11 For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need."*

Philippians 4:13 ESV - *"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*

THE PRIDE OF LIFE

1. The inward and outward attitude of _____ because of an obsession with one's status and possessions.
2. The pride of life causes someone to seek the approval and praises of people over God.

• How to win:

- We win by seeking the reward of the _____ and not the reward of man's praises.
- Jesus speaks into how we _____ our lives.

Matthew 6:1 ESV - *"1 Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven."*

- Jesus speaks into how we _____ generously to others.

Matthew 6:3-4 ESV - *"3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

- Jesus addresses pride in regard to _____.

Matthew 6:6 ESV - *"6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

1 John 2:17 ESV - *"17 the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."*

3 PRACTICAL STEPS FOR DEALING WITH THE WORLD

1. Avoid allowing unbelievers to have deep _____ in your life.

- Your inner circle shouldn't consist of unbelievers.

2. Look for friends who _____ your purposes and goals.

- Live life with those that encourage you to get stronger in your relationship with God.

3. _____ in your relationship with the Father.

- Connect with Him daily through prayer and maintain a lifestyle that will not distance you from His side.

*We will reject conformity and we will share the Gospel and see
the world changed one person at a time.*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Of the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life, do you struggle with one more than the others?
2. What is a defense you can set up to help you win in your weak areas?
3. Jesus countered the devil's temptations in the wilderness: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life using the Scriptures. How can you follow His lead this week?
4. What about the world do you find challenging to resist?
5. As a group, discuss how you can overcome the world and live a victorious Christian life. What practical steps can YOU take to win?