

The Woes of Worldliness

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2/28/08; 8/20/09; 2/5/10; 8/27/10; 10/17/11;

Introduction

God’s view of worldliness is probably harsher than you thought. Do you claim to love Jesus? If so, beware of this “woe,” because if you are worldly then God says you’re His enemy! Look closely now at your life in light of these Scriptures and be sure you are hating this world so that you are not disqualified from being counted as a friend of God at the Judgment.

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1. Background Basis and Definitions

Initial Scriptures

2Pe 3:7 WEB But the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2Pe 3:10-12 WEB But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. **11** Therefore since all these things are thus

to be destroyed, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy living and godliness, [12](#) looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire will be dissolved, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

What is Worldliness? (Summary)

Worldliness is imitating the less-than-perfect ways, beliefs, values, philosophies, mindsets, patterns, and behaviors of this condemned human race.

[See: Mat 5:48; 1Pe 1:15-16; 2Co 13:11; Col 1:28; Gen 17:1; Lev 11:44, Lev 19:2, Lev 20:26; Deu 18:13;]

Worldliness is rebelling against God's plan to redeem mankind from this corrupted and sinful age.

Worldliness is getting trained and disciplined by the devil through people who are inbondaged to sin.

Worldliness is being impressed with the human ways that God hates.

Worldliness is enjoying and being entertained by that which dishonors God.

Worldliness is doing what is socially acceptable rather than what is righteously demanded

Worldliness is the lifestyle of giving yourself to the worthless and sinful ways of your natural and fleshly desires, and emotions.

[This is associated with your own personal "soul" (**Greek: ψυχικός**): 1Co 2:14; 1Co 15:44, 46; Jam 3:15; Jud 1:19]

Worldliness is the selfish pursuit of indulging in this life
[compare 1Co 7:31]

Worldliness is often a life of sinful pursuits sanctioned and encouraged by our culture.

2. God Condemns Worldliness

The Nations Which Don't Know God

1Th 4:3-9 KJB Because this is the will of God, your holiness, that you should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in holiness and honor; 5 Not in the passion of lust just as the nations which don't know God: 6 That no one go beyond [i.e. the limits] and defraud [or overreach] his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. 8 He therefore that despises, does not despise man, but God, who hath also given unto us His Holy Spirit. 9 But as touching brotherly love...

Don't Learn their Ways

Jer 10:2-3 KJB Thus says the LORD, "Don't learn* the ways of the nations... 3 Because the customs of the people *are* vain..."

* "μανθάνετε" (*manthánete*): "be disciplined by"

- We can see that God called Israel out of the world, and now He does this with us: 2Co 6:17 (quoted below).

- We see that we must not take cues from the world on how to live

Don't Imitate

3Jn 1:11 WEB Beloved, don't imitate that which is evil, but that which is good. He who does good is of God. He who does evil hasn't seen God.

No Partnership Allowed

Eph 5:11 EMTV And have no partnership [συγκοινωνεῖτε^{G4790}] with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose [ελέγχετε^{G1651}] them.

G4790 συγκοινωνέω

"...to share in company with, that is, co-participate in..." (Strong's)

> The last part of this word comes from: G2841 "κοινωνέω": which means to reciprocate or share in common with.

G1651 ελέγχω

In the NT, to convict, to prove one in the wrong and thus to shame him.

Unspotted from the World

Jam 1:27 Pure religion²³⁵⁶ and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep⁵⁰⁸³ himself unspotted from the world.

Don't Love the World

1Jn 2:15-17 WEB Don't love the world, neither the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Father's love isn't in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, isn't the Father's, but is the world's. 17 The world is passing away with its lusts, but he who does God's will *remains forever [* μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα – lit. abides into forever].

It Makes You "An Enemy of God"

Jas 4:4 WEB You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

God Repays His Enemies!

Deu 7:9-10 WEB Know therefore that Yahweh your God, he is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and loving kindness* with them who love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations, 10 and repays those who hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him who hates him, he will repay him to his face.

* **LXX (Greek):** G1656 "ἔλεος" (*eleos*) – Mercy; **MT (Current Hebrew):** H2617 "רַחֲמֵי" also meaning "kindness, merciful (kindness)... pity," (Strong's)

Worldliness is Demonic and Satanic

Eph 2:1-3 KJB ...you were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 In which you used to walk according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom we also all used to have our lifestyle in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

So Why is worldliness wrong?

Mat 6:24 - Can't serve two masters...

Affectionate Love For Jesus

1Co 16:22 KJV If anyone does not affectionately love ⁵³⁶⁸ [φιλεῖ (Philei)] the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed³³¹ ...

No Holiness, No Heaven

Heb 12:14 KJV Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord...

In Most Cases, We Need to Repent of Worldliness

- Some of you are hypocrites, and you have nothing offered to you but God's wrath.
- Others of you will acknowledge your guilt and turn to the promise from God offered to you in true repentance.

3. A Call to Media Purity

Where are we at in terms of the purity of our media? In most cases, we need to repent to obtain purity in this area of our lives.

Worldliness and rebellion always says: "If god did not say it was a sin, then there is nothing wrong with it"

Godliness always says: "I only want to do what God tells me to do" (see "Exclusivity" in the "Repent of Words" Bible study, and also see John Summaries: [John 5](#); [John 7](#); [John 14](#))

The problem with saying, "there is nothing wrong with it" is that most of the time God does specifically say that our indulgence is sin, but we just don't read and believe the Bible enough to realize how specific and practical it is to condemn what we irrationally assume is clean. We think we can sanctify anything by simply saying, "there is nothing wrong with it."

Many times we assume that the Bible does not prohibit certain things that we take for granted, as though they are certain inherit rights for all those who are able to enjoy them. But though we think it is normal and ok, God fervently stands against the great majority of our indulgence in popular media.

We can know that there is no inherent sin in shining light in our eyes from a screen, or sound waves in our ears through speakers. In theory, media could be pure, but the media that we use and gluttonize in is already defiled because we addictively use it to function in life contrary to the Scriptures in countless places:

In General: Don't Indulge in This Life

[1Co 7:29-31 CAB](#) But this I say, brothers, the time has been shortened; so that from now on even those having wives should be as though they had none, [30](#) and those weeping as though not weeping, and those rejoicing as though not rejoicing, and those buying as though not possessing, [31](#) and those using this world as not using it up. For the form of this world is passing away.

[1Ti 5:6 WEB](#) But she who gives herself to pleasure is dead while she lives.

Jas 5:5 WEB You have lived delicately on the earth, and taken your pleasure. You have nourished your hearts as in a day of slaughter.

Mat 16:24 WEB Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Luk 6:24-25 WEB "But woe to you who are rich! For you have received your consolation. 25 Woe to you, you who are full now! For you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now! For you will mourn and weep.

Though "entertainment" by itself is not wrong *per se*, our use of it to constantly gratify ourselves, always needing to be entertained and pampered, is definitely a gross and wicked sin. And this sin is the common use in modern christianity. We are not those who mourn and are blessed by Jesus, but those who laugh now, to which Jesus casts His "woe" (Luk 6:25).

But even as if this common addiction to media were not enough of a crime for us, beyond this we are content to pour into ourselves the greatest filth with our media that God has explicitly said that He hates and forbids:

Specific: No Bad Stuff Before Eyes

Psa 119:37 WEB Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things. Revive me in your ways.

Psa 101:2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect⁸⁵⁴⁹ way¹⁸⁷⁰ (*includes conversation*). O when will you come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect⁸⁵³⁷ (*Complete.. innocence... integrity*) heart. (*I walk habitually in the integrity of my heart, In the midst of my house. YLT*) 3. I will set no wicked thing before my eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it will not cleave to me. 4. A perverse heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked *person* . 5. Whoever privily slanders his neighbor, him will I cut off: him that has an high look and a proud heart I will not put up with... (KJV-Based)

Isa 33:14-17 WEB The sinnners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless ones: Who among us can dwell with the devouring fire? who among us can dwell with everlasting burning? 15 He who walks righteously, and speaks blamelessly; he who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands from taking a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of blood, and shuts his eyes from looking on evil: 16 He shall dwell on high; his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks; his bread shall be given *him*; his waters shall be sure. 17 Your eyes shall see the king in his beauty...

Specific: Premarital Romantic Indulgence

See: [www.TrueConnection.org/BibleStudies/NoDating Battle List.htm](http://www.TrueConnection.org/BibleStudies/NoDating%20Battle%20List.htm)

4. Repent of Most All Music

It happens that music as a whole is generally one of the greatest idolatries of the modern world, and in many ways, leaving this indulgence becomes one of the very first basic steps of repenting

of living in sin to actually follow the real Jesus. I have found that people are generally not even close to becoming a real Christian until they are ready to zealously throw away their old music collection and fervently and bitterly hate what they once loved for so long.

You cannot sing the songs of truth until you have left the music of darkness.

Satan's Music

Just as Satan turned His beauty from pleasing God to pleasing himself, so also he uses music (which was originally designed to worship God) to demonically inspire people today to generate music for the indulgence of sin

Eze 28:6-8 CAB Therefore thus says the Lord: Since you have set your heart as the heart of God; **7** because of this, behold, I *will* bring on you strange plagues... against the beauty of your knowledge, **8** and they shall bring down your beauty to destruction...

Eze 28:12 CAB ...You were a seal of resemblance, and a crown of beauty.

Eze 28:13a WEB You were in Eden, the garden of God...

Eze 28:13b CAB ...you were adorned with every precious stone — the sardius, topaz, emerald, carbuncle, sapphire, jasper, silver, gold, ligure, agate, amethyst, chrysolite, beryl and onyx...

Eze 28:14-15 CAB From the day that you were created you *were* with the cherub; I set you on the holy mount of God; you were in the midst of the stones of fire. **15** You were faultless in your days, from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you. **16** ...you have been cast down wounded from the mount of God, and the cherub has brought you out of the midst of the stones of fire. **17** Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; your knowledge has been corrupted by your beauty: because of the multitude of your sins I have cast you to the ground, I have caused you to be put to open shame before kings.

If we ever listen to or sing music, we need to seriously consider the purity of the song writers

While David used prophets to create Divine music (2Ch 29:25-31), we are usually happy to select for ourselves filthy musicians for our own beloved and sinful melodies

Mat 12:33-37 CAB "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten; for a tree is known by its fruit. **34** Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. **35** A good man out of his good treasure brings forth good things, and an evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil things. **36** But I say to you, that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. **37** For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."

Music for Entertainment Instead of Prayer and Worship

Psa 137:2-3 CAB We hung our harps on the willows in the midst of it. **3** For there they that had taken us captive asked of us the words of a song; and they that had carried us away *asked* a hymn, *saying*, Sing us *one* of the songs of Zion.

Note:

- This passage speaks of the Babylonian Captivity (see all of **Psa 137:1-9**, especially, verses **1, 3-4, 8-9**)
- For the most part, “the songs of Zion” (the Psalms) had been divinely composed much earlier during the reign of David (**1Ch 6:31-47; 15:15-25, 27; 16:4-7, 37, 41-42; 2Ch 29:25-31**; and also see **2Sa 23:1**)
- Just as these Babylonians so long ago, it is the filthy perversion of pagans today that still wants to use music for entertainment instead of worshiping God and directing people’s hearts toward faith and truth.
- We can see from this that it is filthy and sinful to use music for entertainment when God designed it for worship
- If we will be God’s people, then we, along with God’s people must “hang up” music when it comes to its potential filthy and pagan uses
- In **Psa 137:2-3** it is because of the antagonism of indulgent pagans that God’s people had to hang up their harps in sorrow
- Why did they hang their harps? “For [Greek: “ὅτι” like saying ‘because’ in this case] there they that had taken us captive asked of us the words of a song...” (**Psa 137:3 CAB**)

5. Repent From Worldliness

Get Specific When Repenting

- TV (media indulgence, As seen previously)
- General Fleshly lustfulness
- Premarital Romantic Indulgence
- Condemnable sins

How to deal with Idols

Hoshea Snake Smash: 2KI 18:3-4

Paul Looking at Idols: Act 17:16 (also 22-23)

1Co 10:19-22 – Idol = demon behind

2Pe 2:7-8 – Escape like “Righteous Lot”

1Jn 5:21 CAB Little children, guard yourselves from idols. Amen.

Some thoughts

Loving the world means loving the flesh

This would not be so bad except that the flesh and world are counterfeits of “true riches” polluted by sin, so that satan is the master of them. You step into rebellion from God when you serve the demonic realm of this world.

Consider the subtle Greek repetition of the “age” of this world, and the “age” to come in Eph 2

The Reward of Repentance!

What’s the Reward and What’s the Hope For Repenting of Worldliness?

2Co 6:12-18 CAB 12 ...you are restricted by your own affections... 14 Do not become unequally yoked with **unbelievers**; for what participation is there for righteousness with **lawlessness**? And what communion is there for light with **darkness**? 15 And what agreement is there for Christ with **Belial**? [that is, the devil] Or what part is there for a believer with an **infidel**? [that is, “**ἄπιστος**” (apistos) - an **unbeliever**] 16 And what union is there for the temple of God with **idols**?... 17 Therefore "Come out from the midst of them and be separated," says the Lord. "Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

(Also: Isa 52:11/ Eze 20:34,...41)



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