

Challenges to our Relationship with God

WORLDLINESS!

Closer to God (55)

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Relationship with God

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Our 2022-23 theme, “Closer to God”

- What it means to know God
- How sin separates us from God
- God’s amazing grace
- Our pursuit of holiness
- Godly character and conduct
- Understanding fellowship
- Discipleship

Challenges to our Relationship with God

WORLDLINESS!

What is worldliness?

“World” can mean different things:

- The created world - **Acts 17:24**
- Our environment - **Mark 16:15**
- Humanity - **John 3:16**
- The lost - **John 15:18**
- The carnal mindset - **1 John 2:15-16**

What is worldliness?

“Worldliness”

- More than materialism (the pursuit and accumulation of “stuff”)
- It is the influence we allow the world to have on us, in **contrast** to the Christian life.
- It is pursuing the world in place of Christ

What is worldliness?

“Worldliness”

- It involves every area of our life - time, associations, resources, interests, etc.
- It is choosing to draw closer to the world than we are to God!
- It may be total rejection of God, OR putting the world over in some area, OR when seeking God is not our priority

The Bible and Worldliness

- The Bible does not use the term worldliness, but it is found throughout!
- **1 John 2:15-16** - Do not love the world or the things that are in the world
- **Ephesians 2:1-3** - “...in which you once walked according to the course of this world...”

The Bible and Worldliness

- **1 John 5:19** - the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one
- **Matthew 13:22**- “...the cares of this world and deceitfulness of riches choke the word...”
- **Philippians 3:18-19** - enemies of the cross of Christ... who set their mind on earthly things

The Bible and Worldliness

- **James 3:13-18** - the wisdom of this world
- **Romans 1:32** - ... not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them

The Bible and Worldliness

Examples

- **1 Samuel 8:19-21** - “...that we also may be like the nations around us”
- **Matthew 19:16-22** - the rich, young ruler
- **Luke 10:38-42** - Martha was distracted

The Bible and Worldliness

Examples

- **1 Corinthians 3:2-3** - “... you are still carnal”
- **Genesis 19** - Lot dwelling in Sodom
(**cf. Gen. 13:10-13, 2 Peter 2:6-8**)

The Bible and Worldliness

It causes problems

- **1 Peter 2:11** - fleshly lusts war against the soul
- **Matthew 6:19-21** - robs your heart of your heavenly treasure
- **James 4:4** - friendship with the world is enmity with God

The Bible and Worldliness

It causes problems

- **2 Timothy 3:1-5** - “having a form of godliness...” - it can deceive you!
- It will affect how you draw closer to God
Philippians 3:1-7 - what are you willing to give up to know Him?

Overcoming worldliness

Know the difference between being in the world and of the world!

- **Cf. John 17:14-16** - Jesus, as He prayed for His apostles & disciples
- We are needed in the world -
Philippians 2:15

Overcoming worldliness

Examine yourself

- **2 Corinthians 13:5** - meaningful changes typically begin with critical and honest self-examination (and possibly input from others)

Overcoming worldliness

Make up your mind!

- Until you decide deep down to pursue God, your efforts will be inadequate
- **Joshua 24:15** - choose this day...
- **Colossians 3:1-2** - set your mind
- **Romans 12:1-2** - be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Overcoming worldliness

Make up your mind!

- Until you decide deep down to pursue God, your efforts will be inadequate
- **Romans 8:5** - set your mind on the things of the Spirit
- **Philippians 4:8** - meditate on these
- **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** - bringing every thought into captivity...

Overcoming worldliness

Put God first!

- **Matthew 6:33** - this is what it boils down to

Overcoming worldliness

Be willing to repent

- **2 Corinthians 7:10-11** - in all things you prove yourself clear...

Overcoming worldliness

Give God the time He deserves

- You will put your time into that which means the most to you!
- **Ephesians 5:15-16, Colossians 4:5** – redeeming the time

Overcoming worldliness

Make no provisions for the flesh

- **Romans 13:14** – put on the Lord Jesus Christ...

You have to remove the sins and weights that are hindering you - **cf. Hebrews 12:1-2**

Overcoming worldliness

Build upon your faith

- **2 Peter 1:5-11** – add to your faith the qualities herein described
See also **Galatians 5:22-23**

What is your primary goal
for this life?

Are you “other-worldly”?

Philippians 3:20

Let us pray!