The World’s “Christian”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 14th, 2018

Text: I Jn. 3:3-10

### Intro

1. Worldliness is sin
   1. I Jn. 3:3-10: The child of God is to be pure as God is pure. The children of God and the devil become clear based on their actions! The one who practices righteousness is of God; the one who practices sin is of the devil! (Sin is against God – Ps. 51:3-4)
   2. Js. 1:21-27: The Christian is to keep “unspotted by the world”
2. Worldliness is a problem for Christians:
   1. Christians live in the world but apart from the world (Jn. 17:14-15; I Cor. 5:9-10)
   2. Worldly attitudes can ruin a church and its influence for good (I Cor. 5:1)
   3. Worldliness is a distraction and entanglement for all Christians (Heb. 12:1)
3. The world celebrates its “Christians” and persecutes true Christians (II Tim. 3:12).
   1. Celebrities who call themselves “Christians” but yet endorse all manner of ungodly things are celebrated and flaunted, and used as examples for all Christians to be!
   2. The world has its idea of what Christianity should look like:
      1. Silent, not sharing the gospel – Keeping it to themselves
      2. Immoral, godless people claiming to be Christians! *(Endorsing same-sex marriage, abortion, etc)*
   3. The world’s “Christian” looks no different than the world, only claiming a belief in God!
4. Don’t be the world’s definition of a Christian!

#### What Is Worldliness?

* 1. From Webster:
     1. “Of or limited to this world; temporal or secular; devoted to or concerned with the affairs, pleasures, etc. of this world.”
  2. From God:
     1. I Jn. 2:15-17: The world is passing away with its lusts and sin, but one who does the will of God lives forever.
     2. God says there must be a choice: world or God.
  3. Worldliness is:
     1. Participation in sin – walking in lawlessness (I Pet. 4:3-4)
     2. Given to a life of following one’s passions (Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)
     3. Living like the world – not being or trying to be separate (II Tim. 4:10)
     4. Living a life devoted to the temporal – not spiritual *(I Cor. 3:1-3)*
  4. Many manifestations of worldliness – Gal. 5:19-21; I Cor. 6:9-10:
     1. Drinking, cursing, fornication, immodesty, dancing, materialism, etc.
     2. A person who looks and acts like the world IS worldly (Js. 4:4).
     3. A person can be worldly and abstain from one or more “deeds of the flesh.”
  5. Worldliness is against God and can cost one their soul!

#### Danger of Worldliness

* 1. Why is it important for all Christians to know the seriousness of worldliness?
     1. I Jn. 3:3-4: God said we are to be pure as He is pure, and we are to choose God over the world.
     2. We need to recognize the danger of worldliness to our soul!
  2. It separates us from God
     1. Js. 1:15; 4:4: Giving in to our lusts leads to death; being a friend to the world makes us an enemy to God!
     2. Is. 59:1-2: Sin separates man from God (I Pet. 3:12).
  3. One loses a good reputation
     1. Prov. 22:1: A good name is to be desired above riches.
     2. I Thess. 5:21: We are to abstain from the appearance of evil.
  4. One loses their influence for good
     1. Rom. 2:24: Talking to those who teach one thing and do another, he says they cause the name of God to be blasphemed. *(I Cor. 5:1: Church tolerated sin not named among Gentiles!)*
     2. I Tim. 4:12: We are to be examples to others in our love, faith and purity.
     3. When we do otherwise, we harm our reputation and good influence.
     4. What we do on social media matters! (What we share, say, post, like, and condone all speak volumes to the world as to who we are!)
        1. Do we participate in or condone immodesty? (pics or likes on pics)
        2. Do we participate in or condone marriage, divorce, and remarriage for any reason?
        3. Do we participate in or condone same-sex marriage or abortion?
        4. Do we participate in or condone content with profanity?
        5. Do we participate in or condone outbursts of anger or name-calling?
     5. ***Online Presence:***
        1. When using the internet, especially social media, we need to be careful that our influence, IE: our character and reputation, isn’t harmed in the process.
        2. We need to use caution because with technological advances also comes more distractions and dangers.
        3. Social Media: Our example must be guarded because, when using social media, other people who we may or may not know observe our likes and dislikes, our interests and the way we communicate with others. Far too many Christians associate themselves with things not becoming a child of God, whether intentional or not. When people see your profile and either see you profess to be a Christian or know you to be one and also see you hit “Like” or “Share” on something with profanity or inappropriate content, it sends a terrible message or flat out causes one to lose credibility!
        4. For instance, if you think something is cute and/or funny and want to “Like” it to show support or “Share” it for others on your Friends List to enjoy it too, make sure not only the content is appropriate but also the source. There are so many cases where someone shares innocent content but it came from a website or Facebook page with profanity in its title or some kind of group no child of God would ordinarily want their name associated with! I have wanted to share a picture or video but could not in good conscience display the source on my page for all to see. If you run into that dilemma, save the picture to your computer and link the video from its source, then post them yourself so both the content and source are innocent. By doing something as simple as that others can see that you indeed *“walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called” (Eph. 4:1).* The difference is there are people professing to be saints who are careless and post, like, or share things that should have caused them to blush! Our presence online can say a lot about who we are.
     6. Saints need to remember that whether we are face-to-face with people or online, we are called to be lights in the darkness, to be *“blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation”* (Phil. 2:15).
  5. It hinders our service to God
     1. I Pet. 3:7: Husbands can live in such a way that prayers can be hindered.
     2. *I Pet. 3:12:* God hears the prayers of the righteous.
     3. *Luke 8:14:* Thorny soil Christians “are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life” and become unfruitful! *(II Tim. 3:5: A form of godliness)*
  6. It desensitizes us to sin
     1. I Tim. 4:1-3: Searing one’s conscience against sin is to remove guilt.
  7. It hardens hearts
     1. Heb. 3:12-13: Deceitfulness of sin can harden hearts.
  8. It leads to other sins – *II Sam. 11*
     1. David lusted, committed adultery, which led to attempts at a cover-up that included lying and murder. (II Tim. 3:13: Bad men proceed from bad to worse)
  9. It leads to disfellowship (withdrawal of fellowship)
     1. *I Cor. 5:1-13; II Thess. 3:6-15:* “Sin in the camp” must be removed!
  10. It leads to eternal punishment
      1. Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14-15: Second death is eternal punishment *(Mt. 25:46).*
  11. The danger and deceit of the world is it leads to eternal punishment!

#### The Christian’s Life Is to Contrast Worldliness

* 1. A life of holiness (even when online)
     1. I Pet. 1:15-16: Our conduct is to be holy for God is holy.
     2. *I Pet. 4:1-3:* Holy conduct (to be set apart) does not include giving in to the lusts of our old way of life.
  2. A life of purity (even when online)
     1. I Jn. 3:3: Christian is to be pure because God is pure *(Js. 1:27).*
     2. II Tim. 2:22: A pure heart pursues righteousness!
  3. The law by which a Christian lives is different than the law of the world
     1. I Jn. 3:4: Sin is lawlessness *(Mt. 7:23: Cast from Christ’s side).*
     2. Col. 1:9-12: Walk in a worthy manner according to knowledge of God (the gospel – Phil. 1:27).
  4. Will NOT continue in sin
     1. *Rom. 6; Heb. 10:26-31; II Pet. 2:20-22; I Jn. 3:* The child of God will not continue in sin but repent and ask for forgiveness (I Jn.1:9).
  5. Will NOT condone sin
     1. Rom. 1:32: Those guilty of committing sin just as guilty as those who condone!
     2. Remember who you are and Who you represent when online!
  6. Desires to be separate from the world
     1. *II Cor. 6:14-18:* Just as Israel was charged to be separate, so is the Christian charged to, “Come out from their midst and be separate!”
  7. The Christian is to be pure in conduct and “keep oneself unstained by the world!”

## Conclusion

1. Worldliness plagues churches and the lives of Christians today.
2. The easy path is to become the world’s “Christian”: one who tolerates everything but claims to believe in Jesus! (Laodicea – Rev. 3:14-22: The church that made Jesus sick for not taking a stand for Him!)
3. Christians must stand out from the world and that is not always easy – takes resolve!
   1. We all must have a willing heart to submit to God’s will in all aspects of life.
   2. If we sin, we are to repent and strive to practice what is right in God’s sight!
4. Christians must often take a stand against the practices of the world – be ready for conflict (I Cor. 16:13).
5. Let us all strive to live in holy & godly conduct that our example may be for good!
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!