Not Of the World:
Wrestling with the Concept of Worldliness

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Introduction:
• The transition from Israel to the Church included two very important elements which affect our relationship to the world around us:

• It seems to me that these two elements of this dispensation also present us with the great challenge we face in our day: how do we live in the world without being like the world? The other session dealt with the first part of that question. This one aims to tackle the second part: what does being like the world mean?

I. The World in the Bible
   A. The universe, i.e., the sum total of creation (Jn 17:24);
   B. The earth, i.e., the inhabited world (Rom 1:8);
   C. The people who dwell on the earth (John 3:16; 1 Jn 2:2);
   D. The evil world order controlled by Satan and in opposition to God (2 Cor 4:3; John 12:31; 14:30).

II. The Believer’s Relation to the World
   A. Believers are no longer “of the world” even though we live “in the world” (John 17:14-16, 18)
   B. Believers, while living in the world, are not to:
       1. _________ the world (1 John 2:15-17);
       2. _________ like the world (Eph 2:1-3; 4:17-19; 5:3-14; 1 Peter 4:2-4);
       3. _________ to the world (Rom 12:2; 1 John 4:5-6);
4. ________ for this world (Matt 6:24, 33; Jn 12:25; Col 3:1-4; Phil 3:18-21; Heb 13:14).

C. Believers are not called to break off all connections with those who do not know Christ, 1 Cor 5:10-13

III. The Core of Worldliness

To have a heart and mind shaped by the world’s ________ and ________ (1 John 2:15-17; Matt 6:24-33; 13:22) so that we engage in its ________ ________ (Eph 4:17-19, 22; 1 Peter 4:2-5) and pursue ________ ________ (Matt 6:19-24; Col 3:1-4; 1 John 2:17).

IV. The Culture and Worldliness

A. Why have cultural expressions and worldliness so often been tightly intertwined?

1. Culture and values
2. Culture and group identity

B. How do we know if a cultural expression is worldly (in the biblical sense)?

1. We must allow God’s Word to set the standard for us (2 Tim 3:16-17).
   a. In what ways might we violate clear Scriptural teaching?
      1) Actions
      2) Attitudes and affections
      3) Associations
   b. We must carefully honor and guard the sufficiency of the Scriptures in making these assessments.

2. We must humbly engage in regular self-examination (Pro 4:23, 26-27).
3. We should humbly listen to the caring, discerning exhortation of godly believers (Heb 3:13; Rom 15:14).

V. The Battle Against Worldliness

A. Its Foundation, 1 John 5:4-5; cf. John 17:14

B. Its Nature

1. It is an issue that focuses on our understanding of ________ and ________—our union with Christ in His Cross work has crucified the world to us and us to the world (Gal 6:14).

2. It is an issue of ________ loves—love for the world or love for the Father (1 John 2:15-17).

3. It is an issue of ________ with and ________ in Jesus Christ—He is outside the camp, so let’s go out to Him! (Heb 13:13-14).