"AVOIDING WORLDLINESS
WHILE LIVING IN THE WORLD"

INTRODUCTION: I John 2:15-17. To overcome worldliness, you must know God's answers to the following 3 questions:

I. What is wrong with the world?
II. What is my relationship to the world? (why am I in the world?)
III. How can I overcome the world?

I. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WORLD?

Def. of "world" =

Remember the following truths about the world:

A. The world has no LORD

1. The world hates Christ (Jn. 1:10; 7:7)

2. The world loves sin (Jn. 7:7; 3:19-20)

B. The world has no LIGHT

1. The world is spiritually blind (II Cor. 4:4)

a. Ignorant of Christ (Jn. 1:10)

b. Walking in darkness (Jn. 8:12, 23)

c. Without the Spirit (Jn. 14:17)

d. Easily deceived (Rev. 12:9)

C. The world has no LIBERTY

1. The world is controlled by Satan (Eph. 2:2, 6:12; I Jn. 5:19)

2. The world is without real peace (Jn. 14:27)

D. The world has no LOVE

1. The world hates true believers (Jn. 15:18-19)
Why?

a.The world hates our Savior (v. 18)

b.We don't belong to the world any more (v. 19) (cp. Jn. 17:14; I Cor. 4:9, 13; I Jn. 3:13, 4:1-5)

INTRODUCTION to II and III: We are in the world but not of the world (John 15:19; 17:15).

II. WHAT IS MY RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD?
(Why am I in the world?)

ANSWER: We are here to glorify God (I Cor. 10:31; I Pet. 4:11)

A.We are here to make a difference in the world, for the glory of God the Father (Mt. 5:13-16)

We glorify Him by being:

1.Salt (Mt. 5:13)

*Don't let your life become tasteless.

Get out of the salt shaker!

2.Light (Mt. 5:14-16)

*Don't let your light be turned off (or dimmed)

Run on full current!

B.We are here to be a conviction to the world, for the glory of God the Son (John 17:15-23)

We glorify Him by being:

1.Sanctified (Jn. 17:15-19)

*Don't let your life become typical (of the world)

Remember: Don't wash whites with colors! (the whites will change, not the colors)

2.Unified (Jn. 17:20-23)

*Don't let our oneness be torn apart

United we stand, Divided we fall!

The purpose for our unity is so that:

a.The world may <u>believe</u> (v. 21)

b.The world may <u>know</u> (v. 23)

III. HOW CAN I <u>OVERCOME</u> THE WORLD?

A. <u>Three Be's</u>

1.Be <u>Born Again</u> (I John 5:4-5)
(We need a <u>regeneration</u> of our nature)

2.Be <u>Transformed</u>, not conformed (Rom. 12:1-2)
(We need a <u>transformation</u> of our thinking)

3.Be <u>Friendly</u>, not friends (I Cor. 5:9-11)
(We must practice <u>separation</u> in our associations)

a.Beware of whom you team up with! (II Cor. 6:14-17)

b.Beware of spiritual adultery! (James 4:4)

B.<u>Three Don'ts</u>:

1.Don't <u>be fooled</u> by the glitter (glamor) (Luke 4:4-8)
(Watch out for <u>deception</u>)

2.Don't abuse it, simply use it (I Cor. 7:31)
(Practice moderation)

3.Don't, if there is the slightest doubt (Rom. 14:13-23)
(Don't do it, if it may conflict with a conviction)

C.Three Remember's:

1.Remember what is coming to this world
(Is. 13:6-13; II Pet. 3:10-13)

The world (system) is under condemnation
(cp. Is. 24:1-4; Jn. 12:31)

2.Remember where your citizenship is
(Phil. 3:18-20)

This world is not our final habitation

Cp. Jn. 18:36-37 - Testimony of Jesus
Cp. Gal. 1:14 - Testimony of Paul

a.We have different plans (James 4:13-17)
(We don't plan the way the world plans)

b.We have different priorities (Lk. 12:30)

(We don't live for what the world lives for

3.Remember you can't take it with you (I Tim. 6:7, 17)

(This world's goods last for a short duration)

Don't seek to fill your pockets, they will be empty when you leave!

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