

# *Dealing with Worldliness*

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Why should Christians be concerned with worldliness? This is a growing problem today, and as has been common through the history of the Bible. Christians must understand what worldliness is and the effects of it. Also, they must try to prevent from falling into those actions and also to correct themselves if found there. This is a problem that affects all, the new in Christ and those long in service. It affects leaders, preachers, teachers, members, etc.

Webster defines worldliness as “devoted to or concerned with the affairs, pleasures, etc. of this world.” Remember that 1 John 2:15-17 instructs not to love things of the world. Loving the world entails things that appeal to flesh, eyes, and pride. The world is temporal, not eternal. The things that pertain to this world will one day rust away. Participating in worldliness is to put things of this world above God. We live and function here on this world, but cannot give into a life of following passions rather than devoting it to the spiritual. Worldliness is wanting to be like the world, not being separate. Many sins are a part of worldliness. These include, but are not limited to: drinking, cursing, swearing, immodesty, fornication, adultery, lying, gambling, stealing, materialism, pornography, etc.

The spirit of worldliness is soft toward preaching and teaching from the Word of God. Worldly things become accepted as “norms” in life. Sin is humanized and therefore is objective. Sin no longer becomes an issue rather a “part of life”. This results into softness on moral issues and questions. If principles can be compromised in personal lives to allow for sin, then they can be compromised in everyday life. Many believe they can act this way and be okay with God, and thus they are led down a path of false hope! Isaiah 30:9-11 shows that the children of Israel would not hear the Law of the Lord. Rather they would ask the prophets to speak smooth things and prophesy deceits. Jeremiah 5:30-31 show that prophets are speaking falsely for the people love it so.

Worldliness is serious. Don't take anyone's word for it though, other than God's own

Word. Worldliness separates us from God. James 1:15 — *Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.* Isaiah 59:1-2 contain this statement: *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.* Worldliness causes one to lose their reputation. Proverbs 22:1 — *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.* Worldliness also makes one lose their influence for good. Romans 2:24 — *For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.*

Worldliness hinders our worship. John 9:31 shows that those who obey Him worship Him truly. Worldliness desensitizes us to sin. (Psalm 1:1-3) It allows sin to become normalized in life. It causes our hearts to become hardened. Hebrews 3:13 — *hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.* By becoming a part of worldliness, we can help breed sin in others. (2 Samuel 11) It also will lead us to disfellowship for being a friend to the world. (1 Corinthians 5). It leads, if not corrected to standing in judgment worthy of death. (Romans 6:23)

In contrast, the Christian life should be much different from that of worldliness. Accepting worldliness leads one away from God and molds the lifestyle of the individual to resemble that choice. A Christian's life ought to be a life of holiness. Peter quotes in 1 Peter 1:16, ***Be holy, for I am holy.*** A child of God is set apart from the world. While being an earthly member of it, they spiritually are a part of the Kingdom of God. Their life should reflect this. Their life should be one of purity. 1 John 3:3 — *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* It is not tainted with sin, rather strives to be clean and pure. It is a life governed by the Law of God, and not an idea of "anything goes". 1 John 3:4 — *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.* The Christian's life purposes not to continue in sin. (1 John 3, Romans 6) Being there once, they no longer wish to be there and have developed and show a respect for the Word of God. The Psalmist put it best. Psalm 119:11 — *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against you.* May we all strive to live this way and realize the danger of worldliness. —**CW**