



The WORLD (and its values)

The Bible's concept
of "world"; the world
as it progresses
through time

#1

KILLER SINS

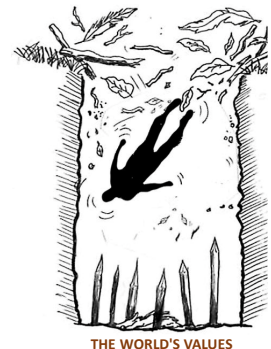
Those "LITTLE" sins that seem
so "innocent."

- Could even be a distortion of something that might have been good in a different context.
- Often the most destructive (and eternally-fatal) type of sin, simply because it looks so "innocent."

KILLER SINS

- These are perhaps the biggest snare for people who claim to be "Christians."
– Many will remain "fake Christians" all their lives...and never find out until it's too late.
- The **WORLD** teaches us **VALUES** from birth that cause such sins to seem acceptable.
– They look so "insignificant," when we compare them to the sins we call "big."

- The only way we can avoid these snares is to develop a "**RENEWED MIND.**" (Romans 12:2)
- This is how we replace the world's **VALUES** with God's values.



THE WORLD'S VALUES

- We also need to understand what the Bible means when it refers to the "**WORLD.**"

OUR MAIN FOCUS TODAY

A transformation is required for a RENEWED MIND:

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

- By nature, we pursue the ways of the world.
- This cannot change, unless we pursue the "mind-renewal" that the Bible alone makes possible.

If the change hasn't occurred in your life, you are still pursuing the ways of the world (even if blindly).

Do not conform any longer to
the pattern of this world, ...

Romans 12:2a (NIV)

What is

"the pattern of this world"
that we are to turn away from?

In the **ENGLISH** language,
we often have a variety
of words that overlap in
meaning.

LAND
GLOBE
WORLD
PLANET
EARTH

So also in the
New Testament
GREEK language.

For example...

gē (γῆ)



This N.T. Greek word focuses on the planet itself.

EARTH, GROUND, LAND, SOIL, ...

- There are many wonderful Scripture passages that use this word.
- However, this is NOT our focus!

Blessed are the meek, because they will inherit the **earth**.

Matthew 5:5 (ISV)

'Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.

'Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On **earth** as it is in heaven. ...'

Matthew 6:9b-10 (NASB)

Don't store up treasures here on **earth**, where they
can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where
thieves break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19 (NLT)

He also said, "The kingdom of God is like
someone who spreads seed on the **ground**. ..."

Mark 4:26 (NET)

Heaven and **earth** will pass away, but My words
will not pass away.

Luke 21:33 (NASB)

For "the **earth** is the Lord's, and everything in it."

1 Corinthians 10:26 (NLT)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new **earth**, for
the first heaven and the first **earth** had passed
away, and there was no longer any sea.

Revelation 21:1 (NIV)

oikoumene (οἰκουμένη)



Another word focuses on where people live.

THE INHABITED EARTH, WORLD, ...

- This is NOT our focus! (Though it is found in some wonderful Scripture passages!)

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the
world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the
end come.

Matthew 24:14 (KJV)

kosmos (κοσμος)



This word focuses on the things of the world.

[almost always translated as: WORLD]

Two emphases ...

- 1) The general order or arrangement of things on earth.
[less emphasis]
- 2) This "world order," as being under the control of sin
(including evil influences, people, spirit powers, etc.).
[more emphasis]

This word is used in John's warning against loving the world.

Do not love the **world** or the things in the **world**. If anyone
loves the **world**, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the **world**—
the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and
pride of life—
is not from the Father but is from the **world**.

And the **world** is passing away along with its desires, but
whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

**** We will look at this concept at a later date. ****

aion (αἰών)



This word focuses on the time aspect that controls the things of the world.

This word can have a greater emphasis on the time ...

1) An "AGE" (short or long) in which something exists.

➤ Many wonderful Scripture passages have this "time" emphasis.

And surely I [Jesus] am with you always, to the very end of the **age**.

Matthew 28:20b (NIV)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and **forever** [= "into the ages"].

Hebrews 13:8 (GW)

Now to the King **eternal** [= "of the ages"], immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory **forever and ever** [= "into the ages of the ages"]. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:17 (NASB)

"People are like grass [that withers and dies]...

But the word of the Lord will last **forever**."

1 Peter 1:24b, 25a (NLT)

This word can have a greater emphasis on the world ...

2) The things of the **WORLD** that exist during an "age." *

➤ This emphasis IS our main focus!

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this **world**, ...

Romans 12:2a (NIV)

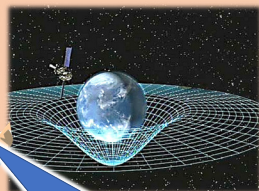
* (In this present world/age: Often emphasizing the sinful attitudes and influences that control the **WORLD**.)

[PARENTHESIS!]

Does this idea of connecting the world and time sound strange?

Well, people do it today (though not necessarily in the same context)!!

[!2I2EHTE3RA9]




WELCOME TO THE "TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM," OR "SPACETIME"!

It's our duty to NOT conform!

Do not be conformed to this **world**,... (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this **age**, ... (CSB)

And do not be conformed to this **world**,* ... (NASB) [*Or, **age**]

Do not be conformed to this present **world**, ... (NET) [Grk "to this **age**."] 

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this **world**, ... (NIV)

Don't become like the people of this **world**. (GW)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this **world**, ... (NLT)

➤ Whether we focus on the time of the things, or the things themselves, **the only way out is by pursuing a RENEWED mind.**

WHY are we to NOT conform? (= Why do we need a renewed mind?)

There was a time when this world was not sinful (= when God created it) ...

[God's] Son, ... through whom he made the universe.
Hebrews 1:2b (NIV)

... BUT NOW ...

The god of this age* has blinded the minds of unbelievers, ...
2 Corinthians 4:4a (NIV)

... it is under the control of a false god (= the devil).

* (In each case, the word can be translated as "age," "world," or something similar.)

When we lived in sin, it was natural for us to pursue this world system.

But now, it is no longer an option! It must be "past tense."

You were once dead because of your failures and sins.

You followed the ways of this present world and its spiritual ruler.

This ruler continues to work in people who refuse to obey God.
Ephesians 2:1-2 (GW)

... the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Mark 4:19 (NIV); see also Matt. 13:22

If we focus on the things of this age/world, they will cause God's Word to have no effect in our lives.

The things of this world must have low priority.

If we have them, they cannot be the center of our focus!

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

1 Timothy 6:17 (NASB)

... for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me [Paul] ...

2 Timothy 4:10a (NIV)

If we don't reject the world of this age, we will become like Demas, who turned back to it.

★ YOU MUST PICK ONE! ★
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PICK BOTH GOD AND THE WORLD.

WARNING!

- People who are exposed to God's truth, but who turn away from it, are in danger of hardening their hearts to the point that they will never return to God.

For it is impossible to renew to repentance those who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift, who shared in the Holy Spirit, who tasted God's good word and the powers of the coming age, and who have fallen away.

This is because, to their own harm, they are recrucifying the Son of God and holding him up to contempt.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (CSB)

THE TIME ELEMENT is IMPORTANT!

⌘ Your opportunity to change will not last forever! ⌘

- This present world/age is evil... but it is coming to an end.

- Furthermore... all who hold its values will also come to an end.

Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

Matthew 13:40 (ESV)

THOSE WHO HAVE A RENEWED MIND WILL:

- Love God, who originally created this world sinless.
- Recognize sin for what it is, and want to obey God.
- Prepare for a future life in a sinless world...

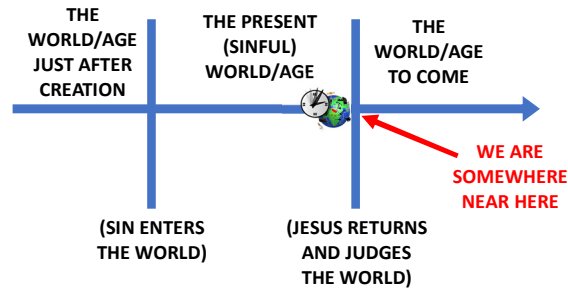
➡ A WORLD WITHOUT END.

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.^{*} Amen.

Ephesians 3:21 (KJV)

^{*} (Also translated "forever and ever.")

THE WORLD AS IT PROGRESSES THROUGH TIME.



?! QUESTIONS ?!
TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK...

★ WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS? ★
DO YOU HAVE A RENEWED MIND?

Credits (1)

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