



## The WORLD (and its values)

Doing all things with  
a God-focus ... even  
living in the "world"

# #3

## CONTEXT is IMPORTANT!

I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalm 63:4 (NIV)



Even PRAISE with lifted  
hands can be a sin!



WHO CARES  
ABOUT FLYING...

I JUST WANT TO  
PRAISE GOD!

HELP!  
WE'RE GOING  
TO DIE!!

★ CONTEXT is IMPORTANT! ★

SOME PRAISE  
"IMPRESSES" GOD ...  
THE OPPOSITE OF  
THE WAY WE INTEND.

I'M REALLY  
IMPRESSED BY HOW  
FAKE YOU ARE!

With our tongues we **praise** our Lord and Father.  
Yet, with the same tongues we **curse** people, who  
were created in God's likeness.

**Praise** and **curses** come from the same mouth.  
My brothers and sisters, this should not happen!

James 3:9-10 (GW)

KEY  
ISSUE

**FOLLOWING JESUS...**

**INFLUENCES EVERYTHING.**

➤ Of course, it means we cannot choose to sin.

~~SIN~~ ~~SIN~~ ~~SIN~~ ~~SIN~~ ~~SIN~~

➤ But it will ALSO influence our response to good things in  
the world.

GOOD GOOD GOOD GOOD GOOD  
~~GOOD~~ ~~GOOD~~ ~~GOOD~~ ~~GOOD~~

⇒ We cannot claim, cling and  
consume anything we want!

Attempting to do so is at the heart of many  
**KILLER SINS** – including:

I Crave

I Devour

I Cling

**KILLER SINS** – Those "little" sins  
that often seem too "little" to  
be concerned about. Can also  
be "good" things that are given  
the wrong emphasis.

**PEOPLE MAY TEAR VERSES OUT OF CONTEXT TO "JUSTIFY" THE FULFILLMENT OF THEIR CRAVINGS...**

SEE, WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS?  
IF I WANT IT, GOD WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN!

I NEED RICHES, A MANSION, PLEASURE AND HAPPINESS ...

I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.  
Philippians 4:13 (GW)

My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:19 (GW)

**OF COURSE, THE CONTEXT ISN'T ABOUT SATISFYING ALL YOUR PLEASURES AND CRAVINGS!**

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.  
I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.  
Philippians 4:11b-12 (NIV)

IT'S ABOUT BEING CONTENT IN ALL SITUATIONS!

THIS INCLUDES BEING HUNGRY AND NEEDY...

(SOMETIMES WE DON'T REALLY KNOW OUR NEEDS.)

**WHATEVER WE DO... IT MUST BE FOR GOD AND HIS GLORY.**

- ALL people have this obligation.
- Only God's people will do it.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (GW)

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:17 (NASB)

Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

**So... WHAT ATTITUDE SHOULD WE HAVE TOWARD GOOD THINGS?**

- ⇒ NOT PREOCCUPIED with the things of the world.  
*The very nature of the times shows us this!*

The time is short. So then ... those who use the world [should be] as though they were not using it to the full. For the present shape of this world is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:29a, 31 (NET)

This concept is found in many Scripture passages. Those who don't like it tend to ignore or distort what such verses say.

- ⇒ GOD-FOCUSED even when concerned with the world's affairs.

- Yes, life situations will influence the extent we can be devoted to serving God:

I would like you to be free from concern.

An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can please the Lord.

But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife-- and his interests are divided.

An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit.

But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 (NIV)

SIGNIFICANCE

- But this is NOT a contrast between:

Focusing on GOD all the time.

AND

1. Focusing on GOD part of the time, and
2. Focusing on the WORLD (and ignoring God ) the rest of the time.

- Even our focus on the WORLD must have its foundation in GOD! We must do ALL things to the glory and honor of God!

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

## KNOWING AND ACCEPTING THESE FACTS WILL INFLUENCE HOW WE LIVE:

### ➤ FIRST: Not consumed by the world –

We will make the CHOICE to NOT be consumed by what the world offers – whether good or bad.

Other people are like seeds planted among thornbushes. They hear the word, but the worries of life, the deceitful pleasures of riches, and the desires for other things take over. They choke the word so that it can't produce anything.

Mark 4:18-19 (GW)

{ In these people, God's Word gets choked out, and has no effect on their lives. }

### ➤ SECOND: Aware that it's temporary –

The temporary nature of what the world offers will influence our attitude toward such things!

We didn't bring anything into the **world**, and we can't take anything out of it.

1 Timothy 6:7 (GW)

⇒ If it's not ours to keep, then we have no reason to be "tight-fisted" with it!

If anyone has this **world's** goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him?

1 John 3:17 (CSB)

**We discover that we can choose only one: 1) God's love, or 2) the world's goods. We cannot pick both!**

## AN ISSUE TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK...

★ **HOW MUCH** ★  
**"CRAVING, CLINGING AND CONSUMING"**  
**DO WE HAVE FOR**  
**WHAT THE WORLD OFFERS US??**

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