



The WORLD (and its values)

The "WORLD" –
as our opponent
and influencer

#5

The WORLD – Viewed from 2 perspectives



Do not love the **world** or
the things in the **world**.

1 John 2:15a (ESV)

[= kosmos (κοσμος) –
the "world system"]

PREVIOUSLY:

- We have looked at the WORLD as a **gift** from God, to be used in ways that bring honor and glory to God.

NOW:

- We will be looking at the WORLD as an **opponent**, or a **snare** that the devil uses to destroy us. (This is the more common way that Scripture refers to the world.)

The WORLD – as an opponent



CHOOSE ONE



THE WORLD'S HATRED

The **world** would love you if you belonged to it, but you don't. I chose you to come out of the **world**, and so it hates you.

John 15:19 (NLT)

IT WILL RESULT IN ACTIVE OPPOSITION

Those who try to live a godly life because they believe in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12 (GW)

The WORLD – as a snare



CHOOSE ONE



OVERPOWERED BY THE THINGS OF THE WORLD

... those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

Luke 8:14b (NIV)

ILLUSTRATED BY ONE OF PAUL'S HELPERS

Demas has abandoned me. He fell in love with this present **world** ...

2 Timothy 4:10a (GW)

**Even the GOOD aspects of the world can be
a SNARE to keep us out of God's kingdom.**

**The devil tries to use GOOD things to
accomplish EVIL.**

- **ADDING DISTRACTIONS** – Using "GOOD" to keep our eyes off more important priorities.
- **REMOVING LIMITS** – Encouraging us to NOT limit our "GOOD" to only what glorifies God.

In both cases: "GOOD" becomes an opponent to "GODLY."

Using GOOD to accomplish EVIL?

**This is quite the opposite of
what God does!**

For those who LOVE God
(who are willing to oppose the Devil),
God uses even EVIL to accomplish GOOD!

And we know that God causes **everything** to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE CHURCH-GOERS WHO DON'T LIKE BEING TOLD THAT THEIR LIFE CHOICES MUST BE LIMITED TO WHAT GLORIFIES GOD.

WHO ARE YOU TO TELL ME THAT I NEED TO LIMIT MY ACTIVITIES

TO ONLY THOSE THAT GLORIFY GOD?



NOBODY HAS A RIGHT TO RESTRICT MY ...

TELEVISION
ENTERTAINMENT
SPORTS
WORK
SPENDING HABITS
LIFESTYLE
FRIEND CHOICES
USE OF FREE TIME
SUNDAY ACTIVITIES
THE-REST-OF-THE-WEEK ACTIVITIES
OR
ANYTHING ELSE I WANT TO DO!

THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT!



I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO INCLUDE GOD IN EVERYTHING!

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do it all** for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO OBEY THAT SCRIPTURE PASSAGE!

Your sinful nature agrees with the devil.
If you don't conquer it, it will kill you.



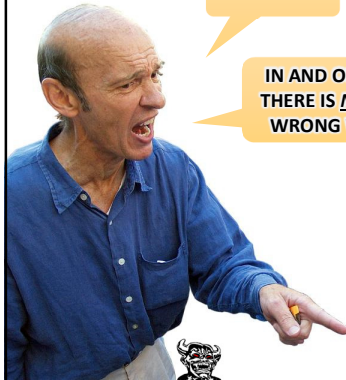
[Not his actual appearance – 2 Cor. 11:14.]

I DISAGREE!

IN AND OF ITSELF, THERE IS **NOTHING** WRONG WITH ...

ACTUALLY, THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THIS ...

A TELEVISION
HAVING FUN
PLAYING SPORTS
WORKING
MONEY
ENJOYING LIFE
HAVING FRIENDS
AND
ALL THE REST!



NOTHING EXISTS "IN AND OF ITSELF"!

➤ There is always a **CONTEXT** that determines the rightness or wrongness of something (if Scripture makes no **direct statement** about it).

- What we do vs. what we don't do.
- Its effect on self and others.
- Whether it builds up people or tears them down.
- Other things associated with the "thing" being evaluated.
- How habitual or controlling it becomes.
- Its effect on our other obligations.
- Its effect on our pursuit of the Kingdom of God.
- [Etc.]

SUMMARY:

⇒ The Devil wants to use the **world** to destroy you.


⇒ The people of the **world** want to destroy you.

They don't always **physically** attack you.
More often, they try to influence your **values**.

I CAN **CHANGE** THEIR VALUES!

I CAN **DISTRACT** THEM FROM GODLY LIVING!

I MIGHT NOT KILL THEM **PHYSICALLY**, BUT I CAN SURE **KILL THEM SPIRITUALLY!**





IF THE WORLD* HAS INFLUENCED YOUR VALUES, YOUR VIEWS WILL EITHER:

➤ Oppose what Scripture says about an issue.

(You may totally reject it.)

➤ Express a "half-truth" about what Scripture says.

(You may accept parts that you like and reject the rest.)



EITHER WAY, you will NOT have reached your views by starting with Scripture and accepting all of it.



*(or church-going fakes)

WHAT WILL WE FIND?

(when Scripture opposes us)

- **DIRECT STATEMENTS:** There may be specific verses that make direct statements that condemn our views.
- **INCOMPATIBILITY:** The whole framework of Scripture may be incompatible with our views.



Since the world redefines values, people influenced by it will often not recognize sin for what it is.



EXAMPLE: The world may view abortion as "surplus tissue removal," rather than the murder it actually is.

Do you claim that God is too "loving" to let people go to hell?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

"Then the king will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me! God has cursed you! Go into everlasting fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels!'"

Matthew 25:41 (GW)

And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15 (CSB)

Do you encourage divorce?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

"I hate divorce," says the Lord God of Israel.

Malachi 2:16a (GW)

100% of relevant Scripture passages **OPPOSE** it.
A few Old Testament passages **REGULATE** it (without endorsement)...
BUT HERE IS THE REASON WHY (according to Jesus):

[Moses] wrote those instructions only as a concession to your hard-hearted wickedness.

Mark 10:5 (NLT)

Do you believe God's main goal for you is a happy, prosperous and stress-free life?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," [Paul and Barnabas] said.

Acts 14:22b (NIV)

There is a much greater emphasis on suffering and persecution... AND HOW TO RESPOND TO IT.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.

Romans 12:14 (NASB)

Do you believe it's OK to cheat on your taxes (especially if you disagree on how the government uses them)?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Romans 13:7 (NIV)

Jesus told them, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Mark 12:17a (CSB)

Do you believe that the unsaved (and people of other religions) do not have to obey the Bible?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

[God] commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 17:30b (NIV)

ALL NON-CHRISTIANS WILL SOMEDAY ADMIT WHO JESUS CHRIST IS.

... so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow ... and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11 (NLT)

Do you believe that sexual activity outside of marriage is OK?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Hebrews 13:4b (CSB)

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral ... nor adulterers ... will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV)

Do you believe that sexual activity does NOT have to be restricted to one man with one woman?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, ... Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts...

Romans 1:25a, 26a (NIV); [see through v. 27.](#)

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither ... male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ... will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV)

Do you believe that it is OK for a saved person to choose* to marry an unsaved person?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

But if [a woman's] husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:39b (NIV)

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? ... What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

2 Corinthians 6:14a, 15b (NIV)

*(Not the same as when the other person later proves to be a fake "Christian," or in societies where marriage is pre-arranged.)

Do you enjoy violence?

It's NOT just what you do with guns, knives, fistfights, etc.

Many people choose to enjoy countless hours watching the violence of others (such as on TV), or participating in violence in a "virtual" way (such as video games).

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

The Lord ... hates everyone who loves violence.

Psalms 11:5 (NLT)

Do you consider it a trivial matter to misuse God's name?

50 years ago, there was even some restraint among the wicked in how they used God's name. Today, restraint has disappeared... even among many church-goers.

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

"Never use the name of the Lord your God carelessly. The Lord will make sure that anyone who carelessly uses his name will be punished."

Exodus 20:7 (GW)

Do you believe people have a right to choose their own gender?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

It's not HUMANS who define gender.

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' "

Mark 10:6 (NIV)

So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.

Genesis 1:27 (GW)

Do you believe that astrology and horoscopes are harmless practices?

Scripture groups all such practices under the category of the OCCULT (which it totally condemns).

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

[This verse makes mockery of the practice.]

Let now the astrologers,
Those who prophesy by the stars,
Those who predict by the new moons,
Stand up and save you from what will come upon you.

Isaiah 47:13b (NASB)

Do you believe that people are born "basically good"?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

PEOPLE NOT EVEN BORN "NEUTRAL"!

Even from birth the wicked go astray;
from the womb they are wayward and speak lies.

Psalms 58:3 (NIV)

For I was born a sinner—
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

Psalms 51:5 (NLT)

Do you believe that "black lives matter" but not "white lives"?

Do you approve of "reverse discrimination"?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

God does not play favorites.

Romans 2:11 (GW)

Do you believe that rich people should be judged harshly, but poor people should be judged with leniency?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

Leviticus 19:15 (NIV)

Do you believe that things came into existence as the result of billions of years of small changes?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

In six days the Lord made heaven, earth, and the sea, along with everything in them.

Exodus 20:11a (GW)

[Scoffers] deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

2 Peter 3:5-6 (NIV)

Do you think that better education is the solution to the world's problems?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

Scripture calls it a SIN issue, not a "LACK OF KNOWLEDGE" issue. Furthermore, genuine knowledge and wisdom isn't even possible, until the SIN issue is dealt with!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7 (NASB)

Do you think it's OK to shoplift from major stores that make millions of dollars profit?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

"Do not steal."

Leviticus 19:11a (NLT)

Do you think it's OK disrespect authority, including the police?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

Titus 3:1-2 (NIV)

Do you believe you have a right to do what you please?

YOU DID NOT GET THAT FROM THE BIBLE!

Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Romans 15:2 (NIV)

**THE BIG ISSUE
TO THINK ABOUT THIS WEEK:**

Have you been willing
to submit your thinking to the
"STANDARD OF TRUTH,"
GOD'S WORD??

Credits (1)

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Credits (3)

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