

## THE WORLD & THE CHRISTIAN

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*"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." I John 2:15-17.*

It is very clear and easy to see our world is not getting better. It is in fact getting worse and worse day by day. Our terrible financial collapse is largely due to selfish and power grabbing sinners in our business and governmental circles. Many of our politicians helped cause the mess, but are getting away with it. Washington is everything but Godly. The entertainment world has dumped all standards of decency, and daily TV and radio programs now major in filth and evil music. The very thing that caused God to destroy Sodom and Gomorra is now being allowed, and encouraged among our youth and adults. The sanctity of life is being rejected, true marriage ridiculed, and decency and Godly living is rejected now by the majority of our citizens. All of this is tragic, but now more and more Christians are looking longingly at all the stuff the world advocates. How can we forget that the Creator of all life will one day judge people for their rejection of His standards. We must, as believers, get back to clear principles that will filter out the evil things around us. I want to give you eight don'ts that will help you understand the evil around you, and challenge you to change your ways, and stop angering God. There are at least 8 warnings in the Word of God to prohibit you from doing evil. When it comes to the world, **(1). Don't Love It:** I John 2:15 warns, *"Love not the world, neither*

*the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.."* Is your focus on possessions and how to get more? Do you live for what the world says is important, blindly ignoring the results of what false gods of this world offer? Christians are not to be wrapped up in possessions, but Godly profession. Love for the world will eclipse your love for the things of God. Always! **(2). Don't Touch It:** *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."* II Cor. 6:17. Please concentrate on the phrase, don't touch it. When you were a child your mother said, "Don't touch that stove, it will burn you." She had your welfare in mind as she warned you. God our heavenly Father is the same in telling His family to practice care in what they touch. Certainly smoking or alcohol use should not be touched. Any immoral touch on another is a forbidden lustful sin. Unmarrieds must beware touching in a rousing way the friend to whom they feel affection. Stealing can be done in many ways but it is always the touch of evil. The Bible is clear to teach, be careful where you reach. **(3). Don't Partake Of It:** *"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."* Rev. 18:4. These words are given in a voice from heaven during the judgment days. Don't lift the liquor glass nor reach for a cancer stick. Avoid partaking in any questionable bodily action with another. All sorts of ungodly sexual relations are being offered, but you must refuse them all. Consider what you are getting into with the foolish push on your TV remote. You partake in every program you allow to reach you from the trash of the media. Don't partake of the dance floor or the gambling joint which beacons with false hope and ruination. **(4). Don't Follow It:** *"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment."* Exod. 23:2. We are

never to speak out or work for a cause that is untrue. Beware of the organizations you join and the meetings you attend. Evaluate the advice you hear and don't blindly support evil. Dance steps on a dance floor will never lift your testimony as a child of God. Dear teens, be careful of your use of time, and the crowd you follow. What the world considers to be "cool" may lead you into great trouble, even in the car you enter, and the music you allow. In dress, beware of that which the Bible condemns, and don't follow fads and styles that compromise your testimony. The best path always to follow is the true, God pleasing, path of goodness. **(5). Don't Yoke With It:** *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness."* II Cor. 6:14. We believers are not to join with and fellowship with those organizations that are doing evil. Your union with unbelievers is another temptation to compromise with the world and wreck your testimony. Even in the realm of spiritual groups and churches that deny the clear teachings of the Word. Keep your membership in a good solid church that refuses to compromise with denominations and religious leaders that have gone astray. **(6). Don't Fellowship With It:** *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."* Eph. 5:11. Fellowship is two fellows in the same ship. We are commanded in many verses to stay out of the environment that glorifies and urges folks to do evil. TV is a door of fellowship with evil, and you better consider what you and your family watch. The dance floor, the tavern, and questionable organizations are all destructive to your walk with the Lord. We who know what is right should not give credibility to things that are wrong. Our fellowship should be with those who are seeking to do right. As an illustration stand one person on a chair and another on the floor beside it. Now you on the

chair try to pull the person up with you. Difficult indeed. Then let the one on the floor pull the one on the chair down. It will be easy to pull down and that is exactly what happens to believers who fellowship with the evil crowd. Stay out of it and sound out against it. **(7). Don't Copy After It:** *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* Rom. 12:2. Men have their problems in this area. Make sure you and your family do not yearn for stuff that will cheapen you. Don't dress like an explosion in a mattress factory. Young man wear your pants high with a belt instead of the last eighth of an inch showing some of your rear. Sloppy is cool with today's teens but hurts your testimony. Young women have been captured by the low pants fad with tattoos showing on top of their rear. Don't dress sexy, sloppy and weird but as jewels of value waiting a virtuous man. Dress your best in beautiful dresses and don't come to church looking like a skinny garage mechanic. Don't become one of the boys because you refuse to dress like a lady. **(7). Don't Be Entangled In It.** *"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."* II Tim. 2:4. Did you ever watch a fly buzzing around a sticky fly catching strip? He ignores the plight of his trapped brethren and zooms around until he joins them in the glue. Dear believer in the human realm, the traps are set by the devil and his crowd in the hope they will snare you. Common sense dictates the further you stay from things of evil, the better off you will be. A cheap, worldly brand of Christianity, has moved into the forefront of civilization today. Rethink, and restudy what the Bible teaches about The World and The Christian. There are clear principles, easily seen in the Word of God, unless you choose to ignore them. Follow the Word and you will not be sorry.