

“Revelation assures us that ‘Righteousness exalteth a nation.’ Communities are dealt with in this world by the wise and just Ruler of the Universe. He rewards or punishes them according to their general character.” - Samuel Adams

“I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever.” - Thomas Jefferson

“If we and our posterity reject religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity.” - Daniel Webster
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LOVE NOT THE WORLD
Jim Stauffer

We usually think of immorality when someone admits to or is accused of loving this world. John tells us not to love the world because it consists of “the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life and is not of the Father but of the world.” He therefore concludes that one who loves the world does not love the Father. (1 Joh. 2:15-17)

This pretty much follows the sentiment of Jesus in Mat. 12:30 when He states we are either with Him or against Him.

Paul describes these as walking “according to the prince of the power of the air.” (Eph. 2:2)

John says, “We are of God, he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (1 Joh. 4:6)

Jude says people who love the world cause separations or divisions because they are sensual and do not have the Spirit. (Jude 19) This word sensual means they are led by fleshly reasoning. James says “earthly, sensual” wisdom leads to bitter jealousy and faction. (Jas. 3:14,15)

It does not take much imagination to figure out how an individual is affected by the love of the world, prince of the power of the air, spirit of error and sensual wisdom. He is led away from God. He will either depart the faith or will continue to put up the front of the hypocrite. It is imperative that the child of God recognize this in himself and turn to God and forsake the world and its wisdom if he is to save his soul.

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Send a Copy to a Friend

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MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

We can just as easily see this person having an influence on the whole church if he continues both in the church and in pursuit of the things of this world.

Those who commit public sin in this way are easy to recognize and correct in order to prevent a “little leaven from leavening the whole lump.” The difficulty is when one continues to give the appearance of being led by the Spirit when in his heart he is responding to the desires of the flesh. This person can harm the church by being a worldly influence on its members.

Now let us apply this principle to those who lead the brethren. Those who teach and preach and serve as elders.

Let me explain how I fear leaders in the church who are affected by their love for the world. As I mentioned earlier we sometimes assume a worldly person is immoral. If a brother is well read in the Scripture and is an able teacher and preacher, we do not perceive him as worldly in his thinking. But he may be a lover of the world without practicing immorality.

What did Paul include with fornication, uncleanness and lasciviousness when he listed the works of the flesh in Gal. 5:19-21? He mentioned along side those things; enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions and parties. A well read and talented teacher can be guilty of any or all of these things. If he is then he is a lover of the world.

Now no one is immune to fleshly desire. Some are more susceptible to some things than others. The danger is when the teacher or preacher begins to soft pedal the areas he has a problem with and brings the hammer down on those he doesn't. That is when he is led by the flesh rather than just tempted by it. If he is led by the Spirit he will teach and preach to himself as well as others and listen to the message he has presented from God's word.

Jesus has sanctified and cleansed the church by the washing of water with the word, that He might present the church to Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:26,27)

Woe to the man that dishonors or profanes the bride of Christ.

Hypocrisy in Action

A hypocrite is a fellow who isn't himself on Sunday.

The hypocrite sings

Have Thine Own Way, Lord but does as he pleases.

Onward Christian Soldiers but is usually AWOL from the Lord's army.

I Love To Tell the Story but never mentions Christ to his friends.

Throw Out the Lifeline but is satisfied to throw out a fishing line instead.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds but lets the least little offense sever it.

All To Jesus I Surrender even though he has capitulated to Satan and is, in fact, a servant of sin.

The hypocrite prays,

“Give the speaker a ready remembrance of those things he has prepared to say” and then sleeps through the sermon.

“Bless those who are sick and shut-in,” but never lifts a finger to help them.

“Bring us back at the next appointed time,” and then sits home on Sunday evening to watch television.

“Help us remain unspotted from the world,” but he views pornographic literature and watches moral filth on TV and at the movies.

“Forgive us of our sins as we forgive our debtors,” but will hold a grudge till his dying day.

“Help us raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,” and then leads them astray through his corrupt and contaminated example.

The hypocrite says, “Amen,” when the preacher speaks on “The Sins of the Tongue,” but often uses foul language and takes the Lord's name in vain. He goes out the door and says, “You really told them today, preacher!” and then participates in the very thing that was condemned!

Let us remember that the Lord has never been pleased with those who “say, and do not” (Matt. 23:1-3). The same could be said of those who “sing, and do not” as well as those who “pray, and do not.” For the hypocrite, religion is but an outward show; he only pays lip-service to Christianity. Let's avoid falling into this trap (Luke 6:46-49).

- by Mark Mayberry

Believing God still rules through and over the nations of men, I urge your consideration of these quotes from famous men in history. Editor

“As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, so they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.” - **George Mason**