

JAMES

Lesson 10: The Believer's Relationship to the World

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The world: the entire system that lies outside the realm of true Christianity.

1. The believer must be free from the cares of the world (Matthew 13:22, Luke 21:34-36).

- Employment, income, and relationships are not condemned by God, but we must be careful not to let the care of those things choke out the word of God so that we cannot be a fruitful Christian.
 - Is there something in your life that is keeping you from your Bible, church, God, prayer, etc.?
 - Make sure the person you plan to marry loves the Lord and the word of God like you do or they will drag you down into the cares of the world and choke out all things godly.
 - The cares of this life will make you unmindful of the fact that Jesus could come at any moment. You will be caught "unawares" (Luke 21:34).

2. Men should not gain the world at the expense of the soul (Matthew 16:26).

- Your soul is worth more than the whole world. There is nothing in this world worth going to Hell for.
- Nothing in this world will give you satisfaction of your soul.

3. The world will offend believers; believers ought not to offend believers (Matthew 18:6-7).

- The Lord would not have us to treat one another the same way the world treats us.
- Preach the word, but don't aim to wound your brethren with your preaching.

4. When you give the world the word of God, they will hate you (John 15:19, 17:14).

- As believers we are meant to give the world God's word without compromise or apology.
 - People of this world will hate and despise you for taking that stand.
 - If you find that the world is embracing you, you're clearly not giving them God's word.
 - In what areas are you a participant in the activities of the world? Repent.

5. We should be willing to lose our love of this world for our love of life in Christ (John 12:25).

- Believers should be willing to sacrifice friendships and kinships if necessary to serve Christ properly.
- Don't sacrifice your spiritual blessings in Jesus to gain the approval of the world.

6. We must be delivered from the world; we can't simply walk away (Galatians 1:4).

- It takes prayer, fellowship, study of the word, and God's power to be delivered from the world.
 - The Lord must deliver you by His power.

7. We are to be crucified to the world (Galatians 6:14).

- If you are crucified to the world, you won't go back to the things of the world.

8. We are to shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15).

- Let men see your good works. Your works should glorify God.
 - Don't let your home life or your job/career prevent your light from shining (Luke 8:16).
 - Your candle needs to be placed on a candlestick (a local church assembly) (Revelation 1:20).
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9. We should deny the lusts of this world (Titus 2:12).

- Be resolved to live soberly, righteously, and godly every day.
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10. We should be unspotted from the world (James 1:27).

- The world is subtle like the devil, convincing you to *bend* the rules, but not to break them. Spots!
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11. We should not desire to be a friend of the world (James 4:4).

- You can't be friends with unsaved people unless it's entirely on God's terms; no compromise.
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12. We have escaped the corruption that is in the world (2 Peter 1:4, 2:20).

- We need the Lord Jesus to enable us to escape the pollution and corruption that is around us every day (cursing, indecency, pornography, careless living, disrespect for anything moral or righteous).
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13. We can't love the world without being opposed to God (1 John 2:15, 16).

- The Lord died for the world (1 Jn 2:2), but we must not love the world system. Give them the word.
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14. We are to be like Christ in the world (1 John 4:17).

- We know we will be like Christ in Heaven (1 Jn 3:2), but if you Love the Lord, you'll aim to be like Him today.
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15. The believer is to overcome the world through faith (1 John 5:4).

- Don't keep sinning and saying, "*I just couldn't help it. I was overcome by the world.*" You have already overcome the world and therefore have no excuse for sin.
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16. We are chosen out of the world (John 15:19)

- That is why the world hates us.
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17. We are not to be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2).

- That means you will be doing things differently from the way the world does things.
 - This will be apparent in your conversation, your walk, your dress, and your conduct.
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18. We are not to allow the doctrines and teachings of men to drag us back into a worldly way of living (Colossians 2:20).

- Man's doctrines teach us that it's okay to live a worldly life and join in the things of the world.
 - If a man's teachings don't come from the Bible, don't follow that man's teachings.
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