



“Dear Children, Do Not Love The World”

1 John 2:15-17

Sunday | December 10th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 2:14-17

(See also 1 John 5:19, John 3:16, Matt. 6:19-24, James 4:1-4, Gen. 3:1-6, Matt. 4:1-11, Col. 3:1-3)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Jeff Bridges] “I define worldliness as being attached to, engrossed in, or preoccupied with the things of this temporal life. The things of this temporal life may or may not be sinful themselves. What makes our attitude toward things that are not sinful worldliness is the high value we put on them. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:2, ‘Set your minds on

things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” The things we value most should be the ‘things that are above’—that is, spiritual things such as the Bible, prayer, the gospel, obedience to God, the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and most of all, God Himself. These are the areas where our values should be focused, not on even the legitimate things of this life.

The non-Christian world clearly does not focus on things of God. Even our nice, decent, but unbelieving neighbors are focused only on this life. By definition, they cannot be focused on the things that are above. Yet their lifestyles are outwardly not much, if any, different from ours. They mow their grass, pay their taxes, and avoid scandalous sins just like we do. That’s why living among them makes worldliness look so acceptable to us. So we can further develop our understanding of worldliness by this secondary definition: Worldliness means accepting the values, mores, and practices of the nice, but unbelieving, society around us without discerning whether or not those values, mores¹, and practices are biblical. Worldliness is just going along with the culture around us as long as that culture is not obviously sinful.²

¹Mores: The essential or characteristic customs and conventions of a community.

²Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2007), p. 166.

DISCUSS

1. What is the best way you’ve discovered for removing a Band-Aid? Why did Pastor Patrick bring up Band-Aids and splinters during the opening of his sermon?³

2. Read 1 John 2:15-17. In our culture, what are some ways we are tempted to “adjust” the meaning and application of this passage?
3. When John says that we are not to love the world or the things in the world, what is he referring to? What is it that we are not to love and why?
4. Read Matthew 6:19-24 and discuss. How does this passage relate to our passage in 1 John? What does it add to the subject?
5. Read James 4:1-4 and discuss. How does this passage relate to our passage in 1 John? What does it add to the subject?
6. Pastor Patrick drew the following picture on a big piece of paper. What was his point?⁴



7. Pastor Patrick referenced the book by Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins*; what does that title suggest? How might that describe us?
8. Read Gen. 3:1-6 and Matt. 4:1-11. Though not exact, what similarities do you see with 1 John 2:15-17? How is Jesus better than Adam (and by extension, the rest of us)? What does this mean for us?
9. READ Col. 3:1-3. What does it mean to “set your mind on things that are above?” How does this relate to 1 John 2:15-17? How might you apply Col. 3 and 1 Jn. 2 in your life?

³Pastor Patrick brought it up to illustrate our motivation to avoid discomfort and pain. It was intended to set the tone for the morning; the subject was going to be uncomfortable, but necessary.

⁴The picture was meant to illustrate how we tend to draw lines of worldliness and sin conveniently around us so as to never have to admit wrong.