

Victory Over Sin Series
Lesson 3 - The Enemy of God
Sermon Bible Notes by O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

Remember, SIN separates us from God. God's love does not excuse sin! His Love has the power to transform us in the likeness of Jesus Christ through His blood.

God has called His people to be totally distinct and separate from the sinful ways of the world. Those who claim to be followers of Jesus but have cheated on God by becoming friends of the world are the enemies of God.

NT – Word is enmity (separation) with God

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Friendship (Greek) = Philia [*fil-ee'-ah*], - 5373, **fondness**.

Fondness – Love, affection, or liking for someone or something.

How can one claim to be a friend of Jesus when they are still fixated by the music, movies, entertainment, beliefs, the drugging system of poison, fashions, and attractions of the world? Because their love is so great for the world, they bring those things in the churches and apply what they love to their worship and church activities. Their worship is self centered. They sing and dance to the rhythm of rebellion of the world and say they are doing this for Jesus, but in reality they are doing it for themselves to receive the praise of others. They may not go to the worldly club, but they have brought the club to the church.

They mix self worship, the worship of others, and idolatry and still say that they are worshipers of Jesus Christ. They have cast the Truth and Holiness of God to the ground and have picked up corruption and destruction. They have exchanged the wealth of faith with doubt. They have no humility and genuine care for others. All they think about is themselves. They are full of pride.

Their churches are spiritually dead and true evangelism is non-existent. They get more excited by church events and socials rather than Bible study and prayer.

What is the meaning of “the world” that is the enemy of God?

1 John 2:15, 16

15 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.**

16 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.

World (1 John 2:16) = lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. These are the things that the world promotes.

Lust (Greek) = epithumia [ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah]

Thayer Definition:

1) desire, craving, longing, **desire for what is forbidden.**

What is the meaning of the “Lust of the flesh”?

Lust of the flesh is doing things that are designed to **please the sinful flesh.**

Those who live by the satisfaction of the flesh will hate the law of God and spiritual things of God.

Romans 8:4-8

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

5 For they that are after the **flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**

6 For to be **carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

7 **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

8 **So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

It is impossible for those who continue in the world's activities, entertainments, and attractions to understand and do the true spiritual things of God. The lust of the flesh pleases the selfish nature of the flesh, regardless of what a person professes. Those who remain in the flesh CANNOT please God.

What is the meaning of the Lust of the eyes?

The lust of the eyes is allowing your eyes to see or watch the forbidden things that promote sin against God. This will include all the movies of Hollywood and most of the programs and channels on TV. We also must be careful on the internet not to go in forbidden areas.

Many of today's fashions are the inventions of Satan that promote the lust of the eyes by exposing parts of the body that should remain private. His fashions promote forbidden sexual desires, fornication, adultery, and homosexuality. It is fashionable for many women to wear tight pants and immodest shirts. Sadly, this type of fashion is found in many churches today. Instead of promoting TRUTH many have become churches of harlotry, fashion, and display.

God's people should learn true modesty and not expose body parts that will cause others to lust and sin. Our clothes should be clean, neat, and loose fitting (not sagging) with plenty of coverage! **It's coverage, not cleavage.**

“All matters of dress should be strictly guarded, following closely the Bible rule. Fashion has been the goddess who has ruled the outside world, and she often insinuates herself into the church. The church should make the Word of God her standard, and parents should think intelligently upon this subject. When they see their children inclined to follow worldly fashions, they should, like Abraham, resolutely command their households after them. Instead of uniting with the world, connect them with God.” - Ellen White, Child Guidance, p. 430

True Christians will not partake in the Devil’s fashions, programs, games, and entertainment that promote any form of sin. The “stars” of Hollywood and worldly musicians are not shining lights, but agents of the prince of darkness.

Psalms 101:3

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalms 119:34-37

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

37 **Turn away mine eyes** from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

What is the pride of life?

In the Greek, “the pride of life” in the context of 1 John 2:16 is referring to self confidence. It is depending on self instead of God.

Jeremiah 17:5-9

5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm (pride of life), and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Self confidence or “self esteem” is widely taught in our society today. **We don’t need self esteem we need God esteem**, trusting in Him instead of self! We live in a very selfish world.

Those who boast about their LGBT lifestyle call it “pride,” but the Bible calls it an abomination. Recently, states and the US federal government promoted the month of June as Pride Month in support of the LGBT lifestyle.

What does jewelry and makeup promote? The pride of life, neither do they have any practical spiritual value for the kingdom of God. It is a waste of money and time. The focus is only on self: “look at me”.

Our adorning should not be the outward jewelry, but the meek and pure spirit of God.

1 Peter 3:3-4

- 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;
- 4 But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

What is the end result of the pride of life?

Proverbs 16:18

18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Isaiah 2:11-12

- 11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.
- 12 For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall be* upon every *one that is* proud and lofty, and upon every *one that is* lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

The pride of life is the institution of Satan in which he started in Heaven during rebellion against God as Lucifer. Not only he and 1/3 of the angels were kicked out of Heaven because of their pride and rebellion, they will be totally destroyed in the hell lake of fire.

Isaiah 14:12-15

- 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
- 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
- 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.
- 15 **Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.**

Matthew 25:41

- 41 **Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**

How long does lust last compared to those who do the will of God?

1 John 2:17

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Only what you do for Christ **will** last throughout eternity.

Will there be sin in heaven?

1 Corinthians 6:9, 10

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19 - 21

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Appeal:

“The refining influence of the grace of God **changes** the natural disposition of man. Heaven would not be desirable to the carnal-minded; their natural, unsanctified hearts would feel no attraction toward that pure and holy place, and if it were possible for them to enter, they would find there nothing congenial. The **propensities that control the natural heart must be subdued by the grace of Christ before fallen man is fitted to enter heaven and enjoy the society of the pure, holy angels.** When man dies to sin and is quickened to **new life** in Christ, divine love fills his heart; his understanding is sanctified; he drinks from an inexhaustible fountain of joy and knowledge, and the light of an eternal day shines upon his path, for with him continually is the Light of life.” Ellen White, Acts Of The Apostles p. 273.2