

The Journey of Faith

Session 15



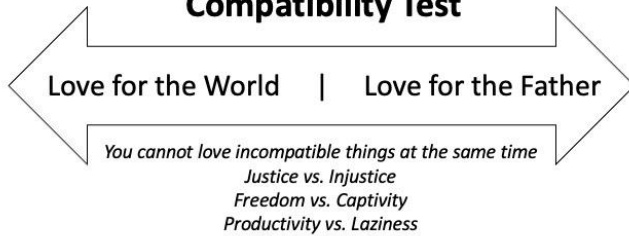
The Lost World

Teaching Chart

IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF IT

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15, ESV)

Compatibility Test



How to Be Different from the World -

Fruit of the Spirit vs. Lust of the Flesh (Galatians 5:22-23)

Contentment in Christ vs. Lust of the Eyes (Philippians 4:11-12)

Pursuit of Knowing Christ vs. Pride of Life (Philippians 3:7-8)

Three Characteristics of the World (1 John 2:16)

Lust of the Flesh (the misuse of normal desires; normal sexual desires vs. distorted sexual desires)

Lust of the Eyes (an unhealthy desire/obsession with what we see; coveting; materialism)

Pride of Life (elevating ourselves above others/God; arrogance; the pursuit of attention/recognition)

Advice about Living in the World

Expect opposition, but don't act like a religious victim (John 15:18-19; Romans 12:18-19)

The world is a temporary place for those who believe (Philippians 3:20)

Embrace your responsibility to tell the world about the hope they have in Jesus (Acts 1:8)

Lesson

- Overview: You are already well aware that there are two systems in this world – God's plan and the world's system. The world's system will always oppose the plans and purposes that God has put forth in His Word. Therefore, one of the key struggles in a Christian's life is how he or she can be separate from an unbelieving world, yet be involved enough to reach the lost.
- Purpose: To prepare the Christian to live in the world without compromising God's purposes for life
- Verses: (1 John 2:15-17) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life - is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- I. What is the “world”?
 - A. The world spoken of in the Bible is not always the physical matter that you can see or touch.
 - B. The world can be a system of values, beliefs, philosophies, and goals that are directly opposed to God and His Word.
(1 John 2:16)
The World’s System uses three things to trap Christians:
 1. Lust (desire) of the Flesh – anything that appeals to our sinful desires and causes us to ignore biblical truth
 2. Lust (desire) of the Eyes – anything that appeals to our eyes and causes our mind to think contrary to biblical truth
 3. Pride of Life – when a person is driven to impress others or find value in himself through what he has or what he does, while at the same time failing to bring glory to God

- II. How will the world treat those who are Christians?
 - A. Those who believe in the world’s system will oppose your relationship with God.
(John 15:18-19)
 1. This opposition may come from family and friends.
 2. This opposition may come from society.
(Galatians 4:29)
 3. This opposition may come from outside sources of communication (television, radio, literature).
 4. This opposition, ultimately, comes from Satan.
(1 Peter 5:8)
 - B. The world will attack and challenge your beliefs.

- III. How should a Christian handle opposition from the world?
 - A. Learn to respond respectfully and politely.
(Proverbs 15:1)
 - B. Live in humble obedience to God.
(Proverbs 16:7)
 - C. Do not take matters into your own hands. Allow God to handle each situation.
(Romans 12:18-19)
 - D. Continue to love and pray for those who oppose you.
(Romans 12:21)

- IV. How should the world view you as a Christian?
 - A. They should see you as one who loves God by what you say and what you do.
 - B. They should see a distinct difference between you and themselves.
 1. God’s Word, not man’s philosophies, should determine the distinctness.
 2. A Christian’s goal should never be to be weird, but one who is well-balanced.

- C. They should see a consistent lifestyle that is transparent and honest.
- V. How should you view yourself as a part of the world?
- A. You are a stranger in a foreign land with heaven as your ultimate home.
(Philippians 3:20)
(1 Peter 2:11)
 - B. Your responsibility in the world is to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
(Mark 16:15)
- VI. How should I respond to government?
- A. Submit to and obey every law put into place by government.
(Romans 13:1-2)
 - 1. Do what is right in all circumstances.
(Romans 13:3)
 - 2. Pay your taxes.
(Romans 13:6-7)
 - 3. Honor all government officials.
 - B. The lost world cannot be changed through political action, but only through individuals being changed by a relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - C. The only exception to obeying government is when that authority requires disobedience to God's Word.
(Daniel 6:7)
(Daniel 6:10)

Review

1. What is the world?
2. List and explain the three things that characterize the world.
3. From the above list, give an example of each one.

4. Name those who may oppose you for being a Christian.
5. True or False. When someone opposes you, your goal should always be to prove your point.
6. Explain how to be distinct as a Christian without being weird.
7. You are a _____ in a foreign land with _____ as your ultimate home.
8. How should you respond to government authority?
9. When is the only time you are permitted to disobey government?
10. Briefly describe the purpose of this lesson.

False Teachings

Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:

- Christians should not have any friends who are lost.
- Being a Christian and separate from the world means I must be weird and obnoxious in my actions and attitudes.
- God allows us to disobey wicked government authority.