




**Enemy #1: The World**



## Judges 3:1-2

Now these are the nations that the Lord left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan.


**It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before.**





# Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)

“The devil is just a  
whetstone to sharpen  
the faith and patience  
of the saints.”





## Proverbs 1:32 NASB

For the waywardness of the naive will kill them,  
and the complacency of fools will destroy them.






# Sam Storms - *Understanding Spiritual Warfare*

"Spiritual warfare is all encompassing. It touches every area of our lives – our families, our relationships, our church, our neighborhoods, our communities, our places of employment.

There is virtually no part of our existence over which the Evil One does not want to maintain or reassert his unhealthy and perverse influence."





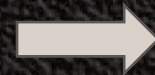


# Spiritual “Axis of Evil”

Deceptive  
ideas from...



play into  
disordered  
desires of...



that are normalized  
in a sinful society.

(the DEVIL)


(the FLESH)

(the WORLD)





# “The World”

1. Defining the World
  2. Our Relationship to the World
  3. Resisting the Influence of the World
- 





# “The World”

## 1. Defining the World






# “The World”

## A. The World = Planet Earth

Romans 1:20

For [God’s] invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.





# “The World”

## B. The World = Humanity

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.






# “The World”

## C. The World = Fallen World System

1 John 2:15


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.





# “The World”


## C. The World = Fallen World System

- 1) To rebel and be autonomous from God, thus becoming their own gods
  - 2) To redefine good and evil according to their own desires
- 



# John Mark Comer - *Live No Lies*


“A system of ideas, values, morals, practices, and social norms that are integrated into the mainstream and eventually institutionalized in a culture corrupted by the twin sins of rebellion against God, and the redefinition of good and evil.”






# 1 John 2:16

For 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.





# The Forbidden Fruit in the Garden of Eden


1. **“Good for food”**  
(desire of the flesh)
  2. **“A delight to the eyes”**  
(desire of the eyes)
  3. **“Desirable to make one wise”**  
(the boastful pride of life)
- 





## 2 Corinthians 4:4

...the god of this world (the devil) has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.






## - Anonymous, Dictionary of Biblical Imagery

“What a wealth of human meanings converge in the single image of Babel! On one side we can see the human longings for community, achievement, civilization, culture, technology, safety, security, permanence and fame.

But countering these aspirations we sense the moral judgment against idolatry, pride, self-reliance, the urge of material power and the human illusion of infinite achievement.”



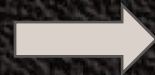


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# “The World”

1. Defining the World


2. Our Relationship to the World





## John 17:14-18

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.






# John 17:14-18 Observations

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- There's a natural hostility that this world system has toward us.
  - And that's because though we are in this world, we are not of it. We're strangers and aliens here.
  - Jesus wants us in the world, protected from the evil one, and sanctified in the truth.
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# Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1895-1975)

“The stench inside (the Ark) would have been unbearable, if it hadn’t been for the storm outside (the Ark).”






## Robert Henderson - Pastor/Author (1928 – 2022)

[He has been] “hurt, abandoned, betrayed and discouraged” more by his church friends and acquaintances, than he ever has been by non-Christians.


He explains, “I have had more thoughtless wounds inflicted by fellow church members, than I can ever imagine by an enemy.”





# 1 Peter 1:22

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,





## 2 Timothy 4:9-10

Do your best to come to me soon. For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.






# William Greenhill (1591-1671)

“To love the world is to highly esteem the world. The treasures of most men are perishing—earthly treasures, cankered and moth-eaten treasures, treasures of vanity.

Christians! Where is your treasure? Is it in this world or the next? Is it in present vanities or future glory? Is it in present contentments or in the everlasting inheritance? Is it in corn and wine and oil, or is it in the light of God’s countenance? Is it in profits, pleasures, and honors, or is it in grace and glory?”





# 1 John 2:17


And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.





Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.






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## Psalm 36:7-8

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.







# The Believer's Relationship to the World

He has been chosen out of it. (John 15:19, 17:6)

Therefore he is not of the world (John 17:14-16)

He has been sent into the world (John 17:18)

Representatively, he is in it (John 17:11-15)

to be a light in the midst of it (Matthew 5:14)





# The Believer's Relationship to the World

He is not known in it (1 John 3:1)

He is not to be conformed to it (Romans 12:2)

He is not to be a friend of it (James 4:4)

He is told to love not the world (1 John 2:15)

and to keep himself unspotted from it (James 1:27)





# The Believer's Relationship to the World

He is by faith to overcome it (1 John 5:4)

Thus he will be hated by it (John 17:14)

Yet shall he judge it (1 Corinthians 6:2)





# “The World”

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## 2 Peter 2:8

...(for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);






## Jim Elliott - missionary/martyr (1927-1956)

“Father, let me be weak that I might loose my clutch on everything temporal. My life, my reputation, my possessions, Lord, let me loose the tension of the grasping hand.


Rather, open my hand to receive the nail of Calvary, as Christ’s was opened – that I, releasing all, might be released, unleashed from all that binds me now. He thought heaven, yes, equality with God, not a thing to be clutched at. So let me release my grasp.”





## Matthew 4:10


Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.””





## 2 Peter 1:4-5

[By God's own glory and excellence] he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.








# John Mark Comer – Pastor/Author


“We must move beyond Sunday services and a network of loose ties to become a robust, counter, anti-culture—not just against the world, but for the world.

Because we’re not just against evil; we’re for good. We’re for love, joy, thriving marriages and families, children brought up in loving delight, adults moving off the egocentric operating system to become people of love, true freedom, justice for all, and unity in diversity.”






# Together, (rather than alone) we're able to:

1. Discern Jesus' truth from the devil's lies
  2. Help one another override our flesh by the Spirit
  3. Form a robust community of deep relationships that helps us to resist the gravitational pull of all three enemies of the soul.
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# Jon Tyson – Pastor/Author

[We'll be]... “A Christian community in a web of stubbornly loyal relationships, knotted together in a living network of persons, in a complex and challenging cultural-setting, who are committed to practicing the way of Jesus together, for the renewal of the world.”





## Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

