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“Crucified to the World”

Introduction

- The word “*WORLD*” is used to mean so many things in the New Testament.
 - “*World*” — Greek: *Kosmos*
 - = earth
 - = human race
 - = Gentiles (non-Jews)
 - = temporal possessions
 - = the present condition of human affairs in opposition to God

When we say “worldliness” we refer to the last meaning.

- Text: Paul’s testimony: (Gal 6:14)
 - a) *The world crucified to me*
 - = The world cannot entice me.
 - b) *I’m crucified to the world*
 - = I will not go after the world.
- This is not an optional subject but a **fundamental** requirement for a Christian —
 - Inaugural message on the Birthday of the Church
 - Acts 2:40 ... *crooked generation*
 - The very definition of Christianity
 - Js 1:27 ... *unstained from the world*
 - The very first act of Creation
 - Gen 1:3,4 ... *separated light from darkness*
 - The very first sentence of the longest book in the Bible -
 - Psa 1:1 ... *ungodly ... mockers ...*

How does worldliness manifest itself?

1. Fellowship with the wicked

2 Cor 6:14-18 ... *What fellowship? ...? ...? ...? ...?*

Was not Jesus a “*friend*” of Sinners?

But He was “*separate*” from sinners —

Heb 7:26

He did not learn from them;

they learned from Him!

Psa 1:1

eg) You do not enjoy their filthy jokes/talks.

“*Bad company ruins good morals*” (1 Cor 15:33).

2. Lusts of the World

Gal 5:24 (A list in vv19-21)

Confess these sins one by one.

Do all that’s possible to overcome them.

You become weak everytime you yield.

Saying “no” strengthens your spiritual muscles.

Apostle Paul’s confession:

Battle between *mind and body* (Rom 7:21-25)

When a youngster asked a 90-year old Preacher

as to when these temptations would cease, the answer:

“I’ll tell you when I come to that age!”

Claim the promises of God —

2 Pet 1:4 ... *The Divine nature ... corruption of ... world*

3. Things of the World

1 Jn 2:15 — This is a materialistic society.

Set your **mind** on things above, because ...

Col 3:1-3 ... *dead with Christ ... risen*

“A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” —

Lk 12:15

A Parable follows immediately —

“Field ... crops ... barns ... many years ...”
“You fool!” ... “NOT RICH TOWARDS GOD!”
(v21)

i.e. No Kingdom concern (v31)

Do not leave too much for your children —

“Sell ... give alms ... treasure in Heaven ...
where your treasure ...” (vv33,34)

Calvary speaks of outstretched hands and open palms!

Don’t be a Demas! (2 Tim 4:10)

4. Fashions/Trends of the World

Eph 2:1,2,3 ... *the course of this world*

Rom 12:2 ... *Be not conformed ... but be transformed ...*

eg) Dress — What’s the trend?

Expose as much as possible.

Not just attractive, but suggestive, provocative.

Ask not: How short is too short?

too long? too tight? too open?

Men : You must look masculine in your dress.

Women : You must look feminine in your dress.

Do not compromise on values.

When you refuse, you’ll be hated (Jn 7:7)

The trend is downward on the scale of modesty & decency.

— The devil does it in stages:

eg) Frog in waterbath, steady heating

— The argument: Everybody does it!

Say, “Others may, **but** I can’t!”

5. Pleasures of this World

God wants us to be happy —

The prescription is “Beatitudes” (Mt 5:2-11)

1 Cor 7:29-31 ... Overindulgence warned against

Overindulgence invariably leads to perversion —

That’s what happened in the days of Noah (Mt 24:37,38)

The same will happen today!

6. Popularity in this World

Jn 17 — The High Priestly prayer

Hated by the world (vv14,15,16)

Popularity/prominence seekers will lose their very faith —

Jn 5:44 ... *How can you believe?*

Do not seek “great things for yourself” (Jer 45:5) —

Name/Fame ... It becomes a game!

Friend of this world vs. Enemy of God

Js 4:4 ... *enemy of God*

:5 ... *Spirit yearns jealously.*

:6 ... *more grace ... pride ...*

Pride of Race (community/caste)

Face (complexion/features/looks)

Lace (dress/style/jewelry)

Place (nativity/regionalism)

Space (properties)

Conclusion

Just before crucifixion,

Jesus said: Jn 14:30 ... *Ruler of this **world** coming;
he has nothing in Me!*

We must be able to say so.