

***How Do We Overcome the World?***  
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**Introduction:** At the heart of all our battles lies the struggle against worldliness.

- A. The strength of worldliness lies in the appeal of the physical. **(1 John 2:15-17)**
- B. While we have been blessed with physical possessions, these can lead to destruction.
  - 1. Look at the blessings God gave Israel and what ultimately Israel did with these blessings. **(Deut 8:11-20)**
  - 2. Has God blessed us with material things today?
  - 3. How far have we come in the last 30 years in our physical wealth?
  - 4. How far have we come in the last 30 years in our spiritual strength?
- C. We are bombarded like never before concerning the advocates of worldly based religion. However we can win the battle! **(1 John 5:3-5)**

**I. What is the “World”, or what is “Worldliness”?**

- A. Worldliness is a **philosophy of life**. **(1 John 2:15-17; Rom 8:5-7)**
  - 1. The root idea lies in an unrestrained fulfillment of our lusts.
  - 2. **How do you make decisions?**
    - a. The worldly person looks within, to the things seen, and is self-centered.
    - b. The Godly person looks to God.
  - 2. Worldliness is very subtle; **most worldly people do not know it!**
  - 3. One is worldly if his guide is self and not God.
  - 4. He may focus on what **outwardly seems good**.
    - a. **Family**. **(1 Cor. 7:32-33)**
    - b. **Religion**. **(Col. 2:8)**
    - c. **Strict rules of men**. **(Col 2:18-23)**
    - d. **An outward devotion to God**. **(Matt 6:1-2, 5; 2 Cor 10:12, 18)**
- B. The worldly life is a deception of Satan. You may think of yourself as being in control of your life, but in fact your lust do!

**(Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV)** "And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, {2} in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, {3} among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the **lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the **desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

- 1. Notice the emphasis on “flesh” and “desire”.
  - 2. Where will your lusts lead you?
  - 3. This mind is from “the prince of the power of the air”, that is Satan.
    - Satan is the ruler of all worldly people! **(John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor 4:4)**
  - 4. Most worldly people consider themselves as right with God! They have been deceived by the great deceiver! It is time to wake up.
- C. Fruits of the worldly life.
- 1. **No Peace**
    - a. The worldly has **highs**, but they were **temporary**.

- b. The worldly is not in control! One has to constantly look for that “high”.
- c. “Peace” for the worldly is escape. What a vain life! Compare this to the peace of God. (**John 14:27; 16:32-33**)

**2. Temporary** - Do you live for pleasure? It will pass away. (**1 Cor 7:29-31**)

**3. Hates Righteousness.**

- a. If you stand as a Christian, the world will not like it!
- b. The world screams out:” Do Not Correct Me!” (**John 15:18-19; 1 Jn 3:13**)

**4. Rejoices in Evil. (John 16:20)**

**5. Has Vain Wisdom. (1 Cor 1:25; 2:6-8)**

**6. No Hope. (2 Cor 7:10; 1 Thess 4:13)**

**7. Condemnation. (1 Cor 11:32)**

**8. Cannot Know God’s Word. (John 14:17; 2 Cor 4:4)**

- a. Why is this so? The two philosophies are at odds.
- b. With the world, **you wear a mask**. Dishonesty is a must. Not with God’s way!

## ***II. How worldliness is attacking the church.***

### **A. In our families.**

**1. The Breakup of the home. (Eph 5:25-31)**

- a. What is at the heart of conflict within the home?
- b. What will be evident in our lives when we choose God’s priorities?

**2. Mothers who work full time with young children at home.**

- a. Compared with 30 years ago, how many mothers of young children worked outside the home?
- b. Why is this happening and what can be done about it?

**3. Time spent in the home.**

- a. A team of researchers wanted to learn how much time middle-class fathers spend playing and interacting with their small children. First, they asked a group of fathers to estimate the time spent with their one-year-old youngsters each day, and received an average reply of fifteen to twenty minutes. To verify these claims, the investigators attached microphones to the shirts of small children for the purpose of recording actual parental verbalization. The results of this study are shocking: The average amount of time spent by these middle-class fathers with their small children was thirty-seven seconds per day! Their direct interaction was limited to 2.7 encounters daily, lasting ten to fifteen seconds each!
- b. If only he'd say -- just once, "All right, Timmy, let's do it together, right now." But it's always, "Wait a little. Can't you see I'm busy? Just a minute, Timmy. Tomorrow." Tomorrow I'll be big. I'm only little now. Now is when I need you, Daddy. Not tomorrow. Or even in a minute. Now. May I have some of your time, please? Please, sir? Perhaps I should schedule an appointment. You always keep appointments. Or maybe I could go away a while until I'd be a real stranger. Then when I'd come back you wouldn't

keep me waiting. Wonder if that would work? But why go to all the } trouble? I'll try the other way -- just once more. Daddy, will you -- will you play with me? Now. Tomorrow I'll be big.

c. A survey was taken showing that the average parent spent 30 hours a week with a child in 1965. Today the average parent only spends 17 hours.

**B. In our work with one another.**

- 1. Gripping, fussing, gossiping. (1 Cor 10:5-10)**
- 2. Isolation, no hospitality, do not know one another. (John 13:33-34)**
- 3. No spiritual association outside of services therefore there is no one to lean on in times of crisis. (Gal 6:1-3)**

**C. In our work with the lost.**

- 1. We do not think they will really be lost. (Rom 1:18)**
- 2. We are unprepared. (2 Tim 2:15)**
- 3. There is no time. (Eph 5:14-16)**

**D. In our worship.**

- 1. We want an appeal to the flesh. (2 Cor 4:1-2)**
- 2. We cannot meditate. (Psa 119)**
- 3. We view worship as a critic and not to help ourselves. (2 Cor 13:5)**
- 4. We want less preaching. (2 Tim 4:2)**

**III. How can we overcome the world?**

**A. By building and maintaining a biblical faith (1 John 5:4-5)**

**B. By putting 1st things first. (Rom 8:12-13)**

*700 People*

Shall 700 people destroy a nation? Only 700 people - writers, producers, actors - mostly godless mercenaries, with utterly no regard for the morals of 250,000,000 Americans are, right now, in the process of destroying the greatest nation God ever allowed to exist.

This number of people, with wealth as their only goal, produce 75 percent of all the shows on TV. Their religious and moral record, according to the reliable Lichter Rothman survey, is as follows:

**86% - never, or seldom attend church/synagogue**

**84% - believe government should make no laws regarding sex**

**55% - believe that adultery is not immoral**

**95% - see nothing wrong with homosexuality**

These 700 people make fun of religion and Christians. All Ten Commandments are disregarded in the name of "entertainment." Millions of Christian views are lulled to sleep. Only a very few will ever protest.

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