

## Worldly versus Heavenly

In 1 Jn 2:15, the word *world* means something contrary or opposite to spiritual or heavenly. You could say *carnal* versus *spiritual*. The word *loves* means the direction of your will, according to your desires. Jms 1:14 shows where so many have ended up due to their worldly desires, or desires for things that are not heavenly, but are carnal. We are enticed according to our desires, then sin is conceived, and it brings forth death. That is the first death for us, if we don't confess and forsake it. Our Master said death is a place of torment to pay for our sins, which came from following our desires and not putting them to death. You have to put them to death or they will put you to death. It's one or the other.

There are a lot of Christians watching the Super Bowl on their big screens in their churches. Now they're getting in trouble with the NFL for having so many people watching the game together in their mega-churches. It has something to do with money.<sup>1</sup>

We have to be very careful of worldly desires, an appetite for the things of the world. It's for our good that we're saying this, and if someone has a problem with it, then they have a problem with our Father. They'll have to take it up with Him. It's only for our good, so that we won't go to death. We're not supposed to love the world or the things of the world. 1 Jn 5:21 says, "Keep yourselves from idols," which is whatever takes your love away from our Father, or interferes with your service to Him.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Cease and desist" orders to churches have been going out since last year, affecting *many* churches around the country, as this quote shows:

*The Super Bowl, the most secular of American holidays, has long been popular among churches. With parties, prayer and Christian DVDs replacing the occasionally racy halftime shows, churches use the event as a way to reach members, and potential new members, in a non-churchlike atmosphere.*

*"It takes people who are not coming frequently, or who have fallen away, and shows them that the church can still have some fun," said the Rev. Thomas Omholt, senior pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the District. Omholt has hosted a Super Bowl party for young adults in his home for 20 years. "We can be a little less formal." (Washington Post, February 1, 2008)*

This applies to anyone who has the direction of his will toward the world or worldly things. It's a matter of worldly versus heavenly desires. We're in a battle, and we're supposed to win the battle, putting all of our Master's enemies under His feet. If you're somewhere and you hear worldly music, something ought to go on inside of you to prevent you from lifting up your soul to that music, which used to give you such good feelings.

So if anyone loves the world, obviously the love of the Father is not in him. Rom 5:5 — If the love of the Father has been poured into our hearts, that is what is in us. But if we love the world, it means the love of the Father is *not* in us. It's talking about a continual desire that you're not able to overcome, that you don't deal with. Obviously you're not receiving help from the Holy Spirit to overcome it, so how can you claim to have His Spirit? Our Father is love, so His Spirit is love. So what if you don't have the Spirit to deter that desire that is leading you to death? It's your own desire, which conceives something, and that brings forth death.

Jms 5:19 — If your desire for the world is taking you over, and your brother doesn't do anything about it, then that means that he doesn't have our Father's love either. He hates you, because he's content to let you go to death, so he'll go to death with you. If you see someone in sin, doing something selfish, then you must go to him and save his (and your) soul from death. It covers a multitude of sins that haven't been forgiven because he hasn't confessed them, because he hasn't confessed the first sin that cut him off from the source of grace. You can't just love the world and not confess it and not expect your sins to pile up as high as heaven. You can't just be forgiven of one of the latter sins without confessing the first sin. That's why it says "a multitude of sins."

Worldly music can take the place of love for Him. *Worldly* means what belongs to the world, which is the opposite of what is of the Father. Tit 2:12 speaks of the "worldly desires" that grace teaches us to deny, and Jms 4:4 says how you can make yourself into an enemy of God. It's idolatry. 1 Jn 5:21 says to *keep yourselves* from idols, just as 1 Jn

5:18 (NKJ) says to *keep yourselves* from Satan's touch. Sometimes we can be touched by certain things, like music. It touches us through our desire.

Someone started getting into sports and said that was one thing he just couldn't give up. He was obsessed with who won the game. What difference does it make? Isn't there something greater that you're living for? It's idiotic. So if you want to go to hell, just go ahead and love football. I say "hell" for effect, but it's really *death*.

Eph 2:2 — If we're walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, then we may still be "sons of disobedience." The evil one is in the air right now. We don't see him or his angels, but they're here to tempt us, to lead us astray. A sheep tends to go astray, but the shepherd watches over the sheep. So we have to be good shepherds. "The spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" is talking about *adults*, but our own children sometimes are "children of disobedience." We can make ourselves "children of wrath," too, as Eph 2:3 says.

2 Cor 4:4 — *According to the course of this world...* but we're not supposed to be in the world anymore. We've been delivered from the world, as it says in Acts 2:40, "Come out of this perverse generation," so we came out into a set-apart place.

I woke up this morning and looked over at the house across the street, and you could see all the television sets glowing, and I was so thankful that we don't have TVs to turn to when we get up in the morning. We don't have radios or CDs, but we have one another. Our brothers and sisters get up and immediately they start serving, getting a fire going, fixing breakfast, doing laundry, not for themselves, but for one another. That's greater than television.

Some people love the world so much that they just have to know what's going on in the world, so they watch the news. What difference does it make? I hardly even know who's running for President. But we have one another to turn to. We have our Father. Each one of us has His Spirit dwelling in us. We have the Word to turn to. We're in preparation for the Kingdom, but some people are in preparation for death. We love one

another, not TV or sports or even the news. It means nothing to us. You can look through the newspaper and you can't believe one thing the way the news reporters write it. They just write to sell papers.

We get up in the morning with one thing on our minds. We turn our hearts to our Father, and to one another, not to the TV to find out who won the latest game — except those whose heart the love of the Father does not dwell in. We don't get up for any other reason than for one another (1 Jn 3:14). If we don't love one another, we're not saved. We haven't passed out of death and into life yet. We're still heading toward that place of torment for those who aren't confessing and forsaking their sins.