

Worldliness

1. How did you define worldliness before reading this chapter? Was your definition based more on actions and behaviors or on attitudes and thoughts.?

2. Read 1Cor 7:22-31 for context. The following is a quote from Matthew Henry ...

Those that use this world as not abusing it, 1Co 7:31. The world may be used, but must not be abused. It is abused when it is not used to those purposes for which it is given, to honour God and do good to men - when, instead of being oil to the wheels of our obedience, it is made fuel to lust - when, instead of being a servant, it is made our master, our idol, and has that room in our affections which should be reserved for God. And there is great danger of abusing it in all these respects, if our hearts are too much set upon it. We must keep the world as much as may be out of our hearts, that we may not abuse it when we have it in our hands.

Does the 1 Cor 7 passage and the quote support the author's primary definition of worldliness on p. 166? In what ways?

3. How do we reconcile our need for many of the things of this world with the admonition of Col 3:2? How do we keep our value of the things "of the earth" and our values of the "things above" in perspective? P. 166.
4. The author gives a secondary definition of worldliness on p. 166. Does the command of Rom 12:2 run counter to our participation in this view of worldliness?
5. The author discusses three areas of worldliness that he states "have become acceptable sins to us". P. 166. Consider the three areas of money, immorality, and idolatry. Do any of these have a foot hold in your life? Discuss how these areas can be so powerful.
6. On p. 175, the author states that he believes the key tendencies toward worldliness lie in the term "going along". Ask yourself, in what ways am I "going along"?
7. How does the author suggest that we deal with our tendencies toward worldliness? P. 175. Can you think of any Scriptures that will help you with worldliness?