

## Do Not Love The World

### References:

- 1.

### Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

### Objectives:

**General:**

**Specific:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Instructions:

1. Church occasion
2. .
3. .

### Bible Verse:

**ALove not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doth the will of God abideth for ever.@ (I Jn 2:15-17)**

### Introduction:

Who are God=s enemies? God has 3 enemies: - the devil

- the world (its lusts and evils)

- our own ego and pride that challenges God=s

Will

### Lesson:

During the liturgy there is a certain verse that at the end of the readings of the Pauline, the deacon says **ADo not love the world or the things that are in the world@**. The church reminds us in every liturgy that love of the world is an enmity to God. It is a biblical commandment, that we should not love the world or the things that are in the world.

What is the world? Is it human beings around us? No, God asked us to love our neighbour as ourselves. So what kind of a world the bible was referring to? John in his epistle defines the world for us: the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the

Father, but is of the world.

Lust and desire have humiliated kings and powerful men because they are controlled by the lusts and earthly desires. Look at the British Royal Family, they have all the things anybody could imagine, fame money, respect, but are they happy? May be a simple poor person who is living in God=s commandments and satisfied with his life is much happier. Fame and money and having all what the eyes desire of earthly things have led a lot of people=s life into hell.

Look at all the famous rich movies stars, or sports famous players most of their lives are destroyed, drugs, homosexuality, having a the worst use of their bodies in various unlawfully relations. Look at all these famous rich good looking people who ended their own lives and compare them to someone like St. Paul (Abba Pavli) who spent 70 years without seeing the face of a human being, ate half loaf of bread each day and had one cloth of leaves to cover him winter and summer, and yet he was the happiest man because God=s grace made him full of satisfaction and peace in his life.

The love of the world can blind our eyes and make us slaves to money, lusts,...etc. Our Lord Jesus Christ said ***ANo man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***@ (Matt 6:24)

***Definition:*** St. John defines for us the love of the world: ***AFor all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.***@ (I Jn 2:16-17). The strong attachment to the world and its lusts, the pride of life ...etc. All of these things make us forget that our lives on earth has a certain message ***AFor ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's***@. (1 Cor 6:20).

### **The Bible tells us about examples of the love of the world and how it destroyed a lot of people:**

1. **Mixing up with people of the world:** God flooded the earth with water because God=s sons started to get mixed up with the rest of the people of the world ***AAnd it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.***@ (Gen 6:1-2). God likes His sons to be unique to him, in their lives in their behaviour, in everything so that everyone can distinguish between those who live for the world and those who live for the glory of God.

2. **Taking the best share:** Lot when Abraham asked him to choose a land to live in, he chose Sodom and Gomorrah as they were prosperous land and looked full of the pleasure of life. ***AAnd Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.***@ Gen 13:10. Lot chose a famous city for its pleasures and riches. We all know what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah and how Lot had to leave it with his family running for his life. Whereas Abraham who left God to choose for him and didn=t wish the fruitful land for himself preferring that Lot would choose was blessed by

God.

**3. Lust of the eyes and the pride of life:** King Solomon says *And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.* (Eccl 2:10-11) Solomon says that he had all the pleasures his eyes can behold and he discovered that there is no profit under the sun. And as a result of the kind of enjoying everything in life is that his heart was not pure before God *For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.* (1King 11:4). Pleasures of the world can make a blessed man of God fall into sin, as God has said to Solomon: *Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.* (1King 11:11)

Compare Solomon enjoyment of earthly pleasures and Joseph who as a slave refused any earthly pleasures even if it meant that he would be thrown into prison. Compare the result of both attitudes and see the blessings of keeping God's commandments. *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.* (James 1:27)

**4. Love of money:** Judas Iscariot loved money that he sold his own master for 30 pieces of silver *Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver* (Matt 26:14-15) Being a disciple for Jesus and witnessing all of the miracles he did and yet, he didn't understand. Money made him conduct the worst kind of betrayal in history.

#### **Examples from life:**

1. A young girl who used to love jewels, expensive clothes, ...etc very much and she became possessed by it. The kind of husband she liked to marry should be able to satisfy this love for expensive things in life, regardless of any other considerations. She was granted her wish and married a very rich man who was willing to get her what she wants. That man was an evil, and cruel man, who didn't even fear God. Her family warned her that this man is bad. Love of the world blinded her and she insisted upon marrying him. And as a consequence she had to endure a life with a man who used to treat her as a slave, physical abuse (beating), insulting her in front of all people...etc.. As time went by she no longer even care to wear her jewels, or to buy the things she loved, instead she said after years of that horrible marriage, that she would give away all of fancy things she has for a single day that would be happy and peaceful.

2. Another example is a couple a father and a mother who thought that money is the only fact in life and was their main interest and basic endeavour. Each parent was busy all day working not paying any attention to their kids and to their spiritual life. They had a lot of money but they were never satisfied. They has a very large income, and they used to give their children a lot of money not asking what they do with it. Everything thing they liked they bought it, they travelled

everywhere, had large bank accounts fancy houses and summer resorts ....etc. They didn't pay attention that there was something wrong with their children : the girl dropped out of school and the boy became a drug addict. And by the time they started to pay attention to the kids problems they were irreversible.

### **Conclusion:**

1. As Christians we have a certain way of living set by our Lord Jesus Christ. As there is no heavenly devil then there is no earthly Christian. Either to follow God or join others in enjoying every pleasure in life.
2. As teenagers Christians we should not imitate others in the way they are dressed (if improper) or the way they talk or behave.
3. God asks us to set a good example to the world, and not to be a millstone to anyone AAnd whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.@(Mark 9:42-43)
4. We have to learn that happiness is not in getting whatever we want or doing whatever we do. Fancy brand name clothes is not the indicator that you are a (cool) person, taking in a certain way (which is not accepted by the church or by your family) is a very wrong method of trying to win the love of your colleagues at school. People respect those who stick to their principles and don't change it.
5. Don't get attached to **things** too much (e.g. certain brand of clothes, certain kind of fancy food....etc.) Remember that God said ***AAnd if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:***@(Mark 9:43- 44) Keep your eyes and heart and mind away from things that would control you in the future.
6. Pray so that God would help you to be a true christian a light to the world. And to ask for his help to be able to ***Aand to keep himself unspotted from the world.***@( James 1:27)

