

Sunday, September 7, 2025 am
AUTHENTIC FAITH: The Love God Hates 3
Mike Teel, Pastor

FOCAL PASSAGE: I John 2:12-17

¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁴ I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

RECALL THE TWO TOOLS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY STUDIED

I John 2:15-16

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

1. THE LUST OF THE FLESH

--Remember Satan attempt to use the natural desires God has placed within us and then tempt us to satisfy them in an ungodly way.

Genesis 3:6 ... ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food (the list of the flesh) and pleasing to the eye (the lust of the eye), and also desirable for gaining wisdom (the pride of life), she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

--Also understand this is where the Spiritual Warfare enters our lives. Satan tempts us to fulfill these God given desires in an ungodly, and I might add unfulfilling way, with terrible consequences.

2. THE LUST OF THE EYE

--Not only does Satan appeal to our basic physical appetites but also to our emotional and mental needs.

--Again we see his unfolding this plan against mankind in the Garden of Eden **Genesis 3:6b and pleasing to the eye (the lust of the eye).**

--In our desire for these things we allow Satan to manipulate us into surrendering our integrity in order to satisfy these perceived needs of the eye.

THE _____ OF LIFE

1. _____ DEVICE

--The third device is the boastful "**Pride of life**".

I John 2:16 ... ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

--This temptation appeals particularly to our perceived need or desire for importance!

--Notice how Satan attacked Eve again in the Garden.

Genesis 3:6c

^{6c} and also desirable for gaining wisdom (the pride of life), she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

--There is nothing wrong with gaining "**wisdom**" but it does matter what type of wisdom you are pursuing.

--There is "**Godly wisdom**" we should all be pursuing and then there is "**worldly wisdom**" that Satan wants us all to pursue.

--**GOD'S GLORY** is rich and full; **MAN'S GLORY** is vain and empty.

--The Greek word for "**pride**" was used to describe a braggart who was trying to impress people with importance.

2. _____

--One of the areas Satan attacks is our prideful nature in the area of our intellect and thought process.

--This is why we need to be very careful about what we read. It is easy today to find someone who opposes almost everything. If you want to discredit something, go to the internet and you will find someone who will side with you.

--Unfortunately, not all sources are dependable. You must investigate who is speaking and what their credentials might be.

--Eve was convinced God was cheating her and denying some things from her.

--Listen to the lie Satan told her.

Genesis 3:2-5

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

--It is also expressed in our pride of not only intellect, but accomplishments of life.

--Why is it so many people buy homes, cars, appliances or wardrobes that they really cannot afford?

3. _____

--It is true the world's appeals to Christians through the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes** and **the pride of life** is real and we must battle it every day.

--Once the world takes over in one of these areas, it will soon be obvious to the believer and those around them.

--He will lose his “**devotional**” *love, enjoyment and his desire to the will of God.*

4. _____

--It is important to note that no Christian becomes worldly all of a sudden.

--Worldliness creeps up on a believer; it is a gradual process.

--Notice the method Satan uses against us.

--**FIRST**, is the friendship of the world.

James 4:4

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

1 John 3:13 ... ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

--**NEXT**, the Christian becomes “**spotted or soiled by the World.**”

James 1:27

²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

--**THEN**, the Christian becomes “**conformed to the world.**”

Romans 12:2

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

--**FINALLY**, it is sad to say that being **conformed to the world** can lead a Christian into being “**condemned with the world.**”

I Corinthians 11:32

³² Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

--Not that the believer will lose their salvation but that God must chasten them for their disobedience.

TWO BIBLICAL _____ OF DEALING WITH THE TEMPTATION OF WORLDLINESS

1. _____

--The downward steps and their consequences are illustrated in the life of Lot.

Genesis 13:5-13

⁵ Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. ⁷ And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. ⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left." ¹⁰ Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. ¹³ Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.

Genesis 14:8-14

⁸ Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim ⁹ against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. ¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills. ¹¹ The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. ¹² They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom. ¹³ A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram. ¹⁴ When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

--**FIRST**, Lot looked toward Sodom.

--**THEN**, he pitched his tent toward Sodom in the well-watered plains of the Jordan.

--**NEXT**, he moved into Sodom.

--**FINALLY**, when Sodom was captured by the enemy, Lot was captured also.

--**EVENTUALLY**, Lot lost everything—for everything he lived for went up in smoke.

I Corinthians 3:12-15

¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

2. _____

--Notice how Jesus was tempted in the wilderness as He set out to begin His earthly ministry.

--Had just been baptized (anointed for His ministry) and is immediately challenged with Worldliness.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." (The Lust of the Flesh) ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" (The Lust of the eyes) ⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." (The Pride of Life) ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

--Notice how Jesus succeeded in defeating Satan where Lot failed.

--The reason staying and attending Sunday School Life Groups and Worship is so important – and not just Sunday morning but each and every time we meet.

LIVE IT OUT

- Are you a child of this world or a child of God this morning?
- How and where have you allowed worldliness to creep into your life?
- Which of the three devices is Satan able to use effectively in your life?
- How can you begin to use god's word to defeat Satan?