

# 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

## “in but not off the world”

### 2 Corinthians 6

“<sup>14</sup> **Do not be bound together with unbelievers;** for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “*I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*” <sup>17</sup> Therefore, “*come out from their midst and be separate,*” says the Lord. “*And do not touch what is unclean;*” And I will welcome you. <sup>18</sup> “And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.”

### 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

#### In coming to Christ

- (1) **Break attachments to this world.**
- (2) **Avoid defilement that can bring shipwreck.**
- (3) **Don't misunderstand boundary issues.**

#### 2 Corinthians 6:3

“giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited,”

#### 2 Corinthians 6:17

“Therefore, “come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord.”

**Discredited**



**Defiled**



### Spiritual Warfare in Corinth

Not engaged in

**Culture Wars**

(Fighting the world's values)

Too engaged in

**Civil Wars**

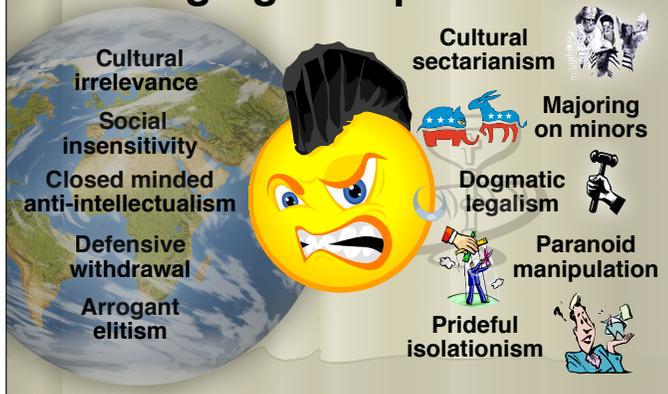
(Fighting other Christians)

Some Christians today have a segregation problem.



Reconciliation in Christ = hostile isolation from the world

## Some Christians today have a segregation problem.



## Other Christians today have an integration problem.



## Some Christians today have an integration problem.



## A worldliness check list

- ✓ **Busyness** - Do I confuse activity with spirituality and fruitfulness?
- ✓ **Me** - Is my world centered on ME more than Christ and those he loves?
- ✓ **Superficiality** - Have I reduced Christianity to - OUTWARD conformity to rules, and GOOD WORKS accomplished?
- ✓ **Popularity** - Do I live my life for the approval of others more than God?

- ✓ **Messiah** - Is something other than Christ the basis for my hope and joy, or is the object of my worship and sacrifice.
- ✓ **Secularism** - Do I define reality and make decisions as though God does not exist, care, or act?
- ✓ **Sensual** - Is my spiritual life centered in my physical senses (see, hear, taste, touch, smell, feel)?
- ✓ **Core values** - Are things of this world at the root of my joy, peace, anger, discouragement, and preoccupation?

(4)

**Defilement comes not from the outside but from within.**

### Matthew 15

“<sup>11</sup> It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man. . . . <sup>18</sup> But the things that proceed out of the mouth **come from the heart, and those defile the man.**”

### Romans 14:5

“One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike.”



### Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,”



(5)

**Spiritual warfare is a mind game.**

### Worldliness is a mindset.

#### Ephesians 4:17

“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer **live** as the Gentiles do, **in the futility of their thinking.**”

#### 1 Peter 1

“<sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former **lusts which were yours in your ignorance**, <sup>15</sup> but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also **in all your behavior;**”

#### Genesis 3:6



“When the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was **a delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **desirable to make one wise**, she **took from its fruit and ate;**”

**Misplaced faith, hope, & love with their false expectations are at the heart of Satan's strategy to defile us.**



### Matthew 4

“<sup>2</sup> And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him . . .”

At the heart of worldliness is not only a displaced faith, hope, & love but also a **worldly wisdom** that makes perfect sense in this displacement.

### James 3

“<sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> **This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.** <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”

### Summary

1. Be sensitive to the complexity of the issue of defilement.
2. Respect the fact that defilement threats are different for various groups (temperaments, maturity levels, cultures).
3. Remember that spiritual warfare is an environmental issue of the inner life.
4. Renew your mind with worship, Scripture, community, and spiritual disciplines.

To be continued next week!

Jesus and Paul provide for us examples of what it means to be in but not of the world.



Take your baptism seriously because

**God does.**



**“In the world but not of the world!”**

Take communion seriously because

**God does.**