

The World System, a New Testament Enemy

Introduction: We have spent since September describing the world system and how it permeates nearly every aspect of our lives. And although we cannot get away from it, we can recognize it and prohibit its influence on our spiritual life, by divine enabling.

- I.** Old Testament saints under law were part of the world system (Col. 2:20).
 1. Context of Mosaic Law ending (Col. 2:14, 16).
 2. The Law was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14).
 3. Example, under Law human government was at times anointed by God (1 Sam. 10:1; 11:15).
- II.** The world system as a spiritual enemy is a New Testament truth—new revelation.
 1. Satan, the ruler of the world system (Jn. 14:30; Eph. 2:2), is rarely, if ever mentioned except in Job 1 & 2.
 2. The world system originates negative lusts is revealed in the New Testament (Tit. 2:12; 1 Jn. 2:16-17).
 3. Therefore, it is impossible to find doctrine in the Old Testament on how to defeat the world system. This is also true of Satan.
 4. Victory over the world system is only possible under the New Testament (Jn. 16:33; 1 Jn. 5:4-5).
- III.** New Testament saints are **in** the world, but not **of** the world, as to source (Jn. 15:18-19). As a result of this relationship, we:
 1. Are to reckon, by faith, the world system as dead to us—has no lasting value (Gal. 6:14; cf. Rom. 6:11). Note difference: reckon world system in the state of death; however, reckon yourself in the state of death to the sin nature.
 - 1) You can take or leave the world system since it is dead to you—use it without over using it.
 - 2) You cannot even ‘listen’ to the sin nature, since you are dead to it.
 2. Are not to be friends with the world (Jam. 4:4).
 3. Are not to love the things of the world, including unsaved people (1 Jn. 2:15).
 4. Are not to love unsaved people, this does not preclude being fond of them (cf. Jn. 17:9; 1 Jn. 3:9-10; 4:20; 3:15; Jn. 13:34).