

Overcoming the World System

- I.** The Christian in the world system and not of, belonging to it.
1. There are two spiritual families (Tit. 3:5; 1 Jn. 3:9-10; Jn. 17:9; Gal. 6:10 2 Cor. 6:18).
 2. Christ overcame the world system (Jn. 16:33).
 3. Victory over the world system is only possible with the New Testament (1 Jn. 5:4-5).
 4. Satan is the ruler of the world system (Jn. 15:30; Lu. 4:6).
 5. The world system appeals to the sin nature (1 Jn. 2:16-17).
- II.** ‘Red Flags’ for evaluating our relationship to the world system.
1. Am I optimistic that the world system can aid in my Christian life? (Jn. 15:18-19 *cf.* Rev. 2:13).
 2. What area of my sin nature does the world system appeal to the most? Where am I most vulnerable? (1 Jn. 2:16-17).
 3. Do I direct my divine quality of love towards the things or people of the world system? (Jn. 2:15).
Note: remember there is a difference between respect, fondness and love. The divinely enabled love is directed toward the nourishment and growth of the Body: The New Commandment (Jn. 13:34).
 4. Am I a friend of the world system? (Jam. 4:4; Jn. 15:13-15).
 5. Am I loving the Son? (Jn. 14:21; Jam. 1:12).
 6. Am I loving the Father? (1 Jn. 4:16-21; Jn. 13:34).
 7. Is the world system dead to me, in terms of being the ‘means’ to the ‘end’ rather than its values becoming my goal? *e.g.*, obsession with possessions, with social status, or with staying alive (Gal. 6:14).
 - 1) Knowing that Satan has already been judged (Is. 14:15) and his sentence will be carried out (Rev. 20:2, 10).
 - 2) Knowing that the world system will be destroyed (1 Cor. 7:31; 1 Jn. 2:17; +Ps. 2:7-9; Rev. 2:26-27).