

PLEASE READ 1John 2:1-17

John’s warning to ‘love not the world’ is as valid today as it was when it was written near the end of the first century. Today there is even a greater pressure exerted on Christ followers to become more and more conformed or shaped to the system of thinking and believing which John calls “the world.”

Below is a list of possible ways the “world” has invaded the life of well meaning believers. **Look up each scripture reference and discuss** the subtle or not so subtle ways Christians are becoming more and more absorbed into the way the “world’ operates.

1 John 2:16 lists the ways the world can exert pressure on us...see how many of those ways fit into the categories listed below. The cravings of sinful man...*wanting your own way*, the lust of his eyes...*wanting everything for yourself*, the boasting of what he has and does...*wanting to appear important*

1. READ: Colossians 3:1-3
PREOCCUPATIONS WITH EARTHLY CONCERNS: we are for the most part busy people.
2. READ: 1 Corinthians 10:12, I Peter 5:5,6
PRIDE definition: “Pride is an overbearing opinion about oneself, one’s worth or one’s indispensableness.”
3. READ: Romans 8:6-8
PLEASURES
4. READ: Matthew 6:24
POSSESSIONS
5. READ: Galatians 1:10
POPULARITY

6. READ: 2 Corinthians 4:4-7
POWER OBSESSION

7. READ: Jeremiah 45:5, I Corinthians 3:1-5
POSITION ORIENTATION: climbing the ladder of success

8. READ: I Corinthians 4:3,4
PEOPLE PLEASING: we all enjoy being around people who appreciate us
BUT...

9. **PRIVILEGES SEEN AS SELF-CENTERED RIGHTS.** See if you can find a scripture verse that would speak to this attitude as life as a privilege not a right.

GETTING REAL:

- a. Which item above gives you the greatest struggle in your quest towards become mature in living a life of love?

- b. What steps could you take to free yourself from this issue?

- c. If you are comfortable, share this with your group, they may also have some good suggestions and can help you be accountable in your spiritual journey.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Continue to pray for the sale of Prete St. which will give us funds to pay back some of Northern Credit Union's construction advance – for the right buyer in God's perfect timing and our patience.

2. Pray that the new building will be completed in a timely manner.

3. Pray that God would provide funds for the Capital Campaign to be met.