

Bible Study - Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 18

Pastor Charles A. Hall – September 7th, 2023

Theme: Living for God, Not the World

“Living for God, Not the World” means that we as true Christians and believers of Jesus Christ no longer place our own selfish desires, needs, and wants above our relationship with God, making God’s desires and will a priority in our life. This means that what God wants for us, always supersedes, what we want for ourselves in any area of our life.

To Live For God, You Must Be Willing To Be Different

The word **different** means, not the same as another unlike in nature, form, or quality, distinct; separate.

If you really want to dedicate yourself to living a life that is acceptable to God, you must be willing to be different. To be different means to be willing to stand out from the crowd, to take a different path than most of the people in your neighborhood, on your job, in your family, and sometimes even in your own household. Without the power of God this is impossible to accomplish, simply because it goes against our own nature. The only way to live different than those around us, is to be guided by the spirit of God Almighty. The human pressure associated with being different from those who embrace world values is too difficult to overcome alone. To be able to live this type of life we must be under the influence and protection of a sovereign, and all-powerful God. To live this type of life you must be willing to surrender your desires and rights unto the Lord. Since living a life different from the world requires God’s supernatural powers, then it is obvious that no one could live such a life apart from God and the protection and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

- **1Thessalonians 5:23-24** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (24) Faith is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
- **1Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
- **Proverbs 1:15-16** My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: (16) For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.
- **Proverbs 4:14-19** Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. (15) Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. (16) For they sleep not, except they have done mischief, and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. (17) For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. (18) But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. (19) The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.
- **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Those who have come to know Jesus Christ and have heard His voice speak to them through their spirits, are no longer like those who still live in darkness, who are ignorant to the truth. As a result, we no longer live like those who continue to believe a lie, and refuse to accept the truth, and are

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guided by the lust of their flesh. Their lack of understanding has separated them from God, and have blinded them from His love. Their fleshly lust has produced an ungodly sexual desire, which also generates uncleanness and greed. However, those who have heard the truth, and have put off the old man, and have put on the new man, which is created in Christ Jesus likeness. Who no longer live in darkness, nor do the things we did prior to accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior. We are now new creatures in Christ Jesus, our spirits and our minds are continually being renewed daily. After we have been regenerated (born again by the spirit of God), and have changed our ways, those that we associated with in our prior state will think that our new lifestyle is strange. Especially since we do not spend quality time with them anymore, nor do we have the desire to do the things they do.

- **Ephesians 4:17-24** This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, (18) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: (19) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (20) But ye have not so learned Christ: (21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: (22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
- **1Peter 4:3-4** For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: (4) Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

God did not just start commanding His people and believers of the gospel to live different from the rest of the world. God commanded this same obedience from the Israelites hundreds of years before the apostle Paul was even born. God's moral standard did not start with us, He has always commanded a high standard of living for those that He created in His own likeness.

- **Leviticus 18:1-5** And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, (2) Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the Lord your God. (3) After the doing of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do, and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. (4) Ye shall do my judgements, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the Lord your God. (5) Ye shall therefore keep my status, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the Lord

Being different as a result of being filled with the spirit of God, is a good place to be, it elevates us spiritually in the sight of God from other humans.

- **1Peter 2:9** But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.