



Scripture text: 1 John 2:15-17, 5:21

Definition: Ryrie defines “the world” as the organized system headed by Satan that leaves God out and is a rival to Him.¹

Questions must be answered regarding our relationship with the world.

1. Is it possible to totally isolate ourselves from the world? *No, the world will always have some influence on us – for good (only if we respond righteously to it) or for ill (if we don’t).*
2. In what direction and to what degree will I allow the world to influence my children? *Our position as parents must be that of constant providers of protection, Biblical warning, and godly instruction regarding the philosophies and allurements of the world.*
3. Does God use our knowledge of the world in such a way that we can be drawn closer to Him? *We can ask God to inoculate our children even while we are attempting to limit their exposure to evil so that they develop HIS viewpoint toward the world and cling to Him more closely.*

Conclusion: The believing parent’s response to evil in our fallen world should produce in his children an understanding of God’s view of sin and a corresponding abhorrence for what God hates.

¹ Ryrie, Charles. *Ryrie Study Bible*. New American Standard Bible, Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1995.

Scriptural example of the believer's approach to the world is found in 1 Cor. 10:1-13

- I. We must stand against the "the world".
 - A. We must acknowledge that we are not able to stand in our own strength against the world (vs. 12).
 - B. We must take hope in the faithfulness of God (vs. 13).

- II. We must exercise faithful, Spirit-directed self-control (1 Cor. 9:24 - 27)
 - A. We must identify and resist the idolatry of the world.
 - B. We must remove worldly idols from our lives and the lives of our families.
(I John 5:21) *Little children, guard yourselves from idols.*

- III. We must recognize that idolatry is anything that exalts itself above Christ.
 - A. Idolatry is the world's primary mode for perverting God's creation to rob Him of His glory. We oppose that as children of God who are living for His glory.
 1. We must develop and maintain a righteous indignation and a holy hatred for the perverted idolatry of the world.
 2. We must inoculate ourselves and our children against the perverted idolatry of the world by identifying the temptations of the world as listed in I John 2.
 - a. Lust of the flesh: Hedonism, pleasure seeking, and idolatry of unmitigated pleasure
 - b. Lust of the eyes: Materialism, covetousness - identified as idolatry in Col 3
 - c. Pride of life: the egotistical conceit that is a result of the idolatry of self
 - B. We must understand and teach our children that idolatry is virtually worshipping ourselves instead of God

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