

VALUES WAR: WORLD vs. WORD

Discussion Questions: Why are the values we hold important? Why should we care about the values of other people?

Worldly Values: Major Influences

- 1) **Satan** (Luke 10:18; Is 14:12-15; Ez 28:11-19; Rev 12)

Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers (II Cor 4:4), and leads the world astray (Rev 12:9) and significantly influences the world system (I John 5:19). We need to avoid conforming to the world and its ways (Romans 12:2; Eph 2:1-2). We need to not love the world system or anything in it (I John 2:15-17).

- 2) **Deceived people** like:

- a) Charles Darwin -- atheistic evolution
- b) Sigmund Freud -- secular psychology
- c) Friedrich Nietzsche -- philosopher "God is dead"
- d) Karl Marx -- communism
- e) Many others, such as ?????

Progression: Shock - Acceptance - Indifference – (and sometimes Celebration!)

Remember: worldly wisdom (values) is foolish in God's eyes! (I Cor 1:20-31, 3:18-19; Rom 1:18-23).

Forces Behind the Issues (proponents of worldly values)

- 1) *Power and influence of the secular elite (academics; journalists & editors; network executives; Hollywood moguls; some judges; etc)*

One example: survey of TV writers of executives --

Adultery is wrong = _____ %

Homosexual acts are wrong = _____ %

Women always has right to abortion = _____ %

- 2) *Emergence of a powerful philosophical pluralism (old = Judeo/Christian; new = pluralistic philosophy)*

- a) **Humanism** (key contributors = Dewey, Huxley, Skinner). Key beliefs: basic goodness of man; notion of self-caused universe; truth is relative; exaltation of reason

Humanism creates "victims" -- since we are basically good any problems we face are somebody else's fault.

- b) New Age polytheism -- shares some beliefs of humanism such as man is good and truth is relative but goes beyond. Believes humanity is in the process of a great transformation -- need enlightenment to reach our potential as our own "gods".
 - c) Secular Hedonism -- worldly pleasure is all that matters
 - d) Majorityism (majority is right)
- 3) *Prolonged, soul numbing prosperity*
 - 4) *Rise of the P.C. Bible*

P.C. = personally compatible (it's your interpretation versus mine)

P.C. = politically correct

We need to handle the word accurately (II Tim 2:15) and encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it (Titus 1:9), keeping in mind the principle to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

Basic Worldly Values and relevant biblical perspective

- 1) World: Man is basically good, and does not need a Savior.

Word: Man is sinful, and needs a Savior, otherwise we will pay the penalty for our own sins (eternal separation from God in hell) (Romans 3:9-23, 6:23; Jer 17:9; I John 1:8,10; Eccl 7:20; Isa 53:6, 59:2, 64:6; John 5:28-29; Mt 25:46; Rev 20:11-15; Luke 3:17).

- 2) World: Truth is relative

Word: There is absolute truth, which can be found in God's word (John 8:31-32, 17:17; II Tim 2:15).

- 3) World: The world was created by chance via evolution. Man is just an evolved animal.

Word: The world was created by God. Man was created by God and was created in His image (created: Gen 1; Ps 102:25; Is 40:28; Eccl 11:5; Jer 10:16; John 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2; His image: Gen 1:26-27, 5:1-3, 9:6; James 3:9). **Man is distinct from and more important than animals** (Mt 6:26, 12:9-12; Luke 12:24).

- 4) World: God does not exist or at least has no bearing on events of the world

Word: God is not only the creator of the world, but He sustains it and provides redemption to all who believe through the cross of Jesus Christ (Heb 1:3; Col 1:14, 17, 20; John 3:16; I Tim 2:5-6).

- 5) World: Human life is valuable only as long as it is wanted; abortion & assisted suicide are ok

Word: Human life is sacred and innocent people should be protected

[See Lesson on Life]

- 6) World: Homosexuality is a lifestyle choice that should be protected, respected and even honored and celebrated

Word: Homosexuals should be loved and shown grace. Homosexuality behavior is a sin (as are many other behaviors such as pride, greed, gossip, slander, stealing, unrighteous anger, etc).

[See Lesson on Sexuality]

- 7) World: Marriage is a human contract between two people, and either person can end it at any time and for any reason

Word: Marriage is a covenant contract (vow) between two people and God, and is intended to last for a lifetime. Partners have become as "one flesh"; we should not separate what God has joined together; God did not intend for divorce, and hates divorce (Gen 2:18-25; Mt 19:3-8; Romans 7:2; I Cor 7: 10, 27,39; Proverbs 2:16-17; Mal 2:13-16; Num 30:2). (Note: God can also forgive, heal and re-build lives when needed)

- 8) World: Majority is always right.

Word: Majority is often wrong (Mat 7:13-14).

- 9) World: Showing favoritism to certain groups of people is acceptable.

Word: We should not show favoritism.

- a. God does not show favoritism (Acts 10:34-35; Rom 2:9-11; Eph 6:9)
- b. We should not show favoritism (Ex 22:2-3; Lev 19:15; Gal 3:28; Col 3:25; I Tim 5:21; James 2:1, 2:9)

[Note: see Lesson on Racism, Sexism and Discrimination]

- 10) World: Any type of sexual expression between anybody at anytime is fine as long as the sex is consensual.

Word: Sexual intercourse within a heterosexual marital relationship is wonderful but is ALWAYS wrong outside marriage.

[See Lesson on Sexuality]

- 11) World: The end justifies the means (any means is ok to reach a desired goal).

Word: The means & motives we use to strive for goals are important. We should avoid evil scheming (Proverbs 1:10-19, 6:18, 24:9) and glorify God in all that we do (I Cor 10:31). Our motives will be judged (I Cor 4:5; Proverbs 16:2).

- 12) World: Acquiring money, power and other things of the world is important.

Word: We should not love things of the world (I John 2:15-17), but love God & people and focus on things of eternal value (Mt 22:34-40; Phil 3:17-21; Col 3:1-3). We should be careful about pursuing wealth (Mt 16:26; Duet 8:11-14, 19-20; Hosea 13:6; Mt 13:22; I Tim 6:6-11,17-19; Proverbs 30:8).