

THE FIFTH TEST: YOUR RELIANCE ON THE WORLD

“You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” James 4:4 (NIV)

❖ The **EVIDENCE** of Worldliness

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:1-3 (NIV)

1. **SELFISHNESS**...when looking out for **NO. 1** becomes a **HABIT** not a **HOBBY**
“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)
2. **COVETOUSNESS**...never **SATISFIED** because you are never **SECURE**
“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)
3. **INDULGENCE**...looking for that **ONE MORE** thing to **FILL UP** the void
“You're addicted to thrills? What an empty life! The pursuit of pleasure is never satisfied.” Proverbs 21:17 (MSG)

❖ The **EFFECTS** of Worldliness

“You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’” James 4:4-6 (NIV)

1. The **CLOSER** you get to the **WORLD** the **FURTHER** you move from **GOD**
 2. Blocking out the **SON** begins to **CLOUD** your **JUDGEMENT**
 3. Ultimately we become our own **GOD**, the **WORLD REVOLVES** around us.
- **Key Truth: Your CLOCK, CALENDAR and CHECKBOOK reveal your god.**
“Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies. So they worshiped the things God made but not the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever.” Romans 1:25 (NLT)

❖ The **ESCAPE** from Worldliness

1. First Step...**RECOGNITION** and **REPENTANCE**
“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail.” James 4:7-9a (NIV)

2. Second Step...HUMILITY and HOLINESS

“Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”

James 4:9b-12 (NIV)

3. Third Step...SURRENDER and SERVICE

“Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.’ As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.”

James 4:13-16 (NIV)

❖ Closing Challenge: The Church's ANSWER to WORLDLINESS is SERVANTHOOD

“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.”

James 4:17 (NIV)

- Key Truth: *“The measure of a SERVANT'S HEART is discovered when somebody TREATS YOU like one.”*

Elizabeth Elliot