

I. The Urge to Be Accepted by your Social Friends

- A. An established finding of modern psychology
- B. An obvious fact of life
- C. So deep-rooted that people will go to great extremes to be "accepted" by their social friends.
- D. The Scripture is clear:
 - 1. "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" Am. 3:
 - 2. No compromise on vital decisions, I Kings 18:21, "How long halt ye between 2 opinions?"
 - 3. No divided loyalty in moral & spiritual matters. Hosea 10:2, "Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty."
 - Mt. 6:24, "No man can serve two masters."
 - "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
 - Mt. 12:25, "Every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."
 - 4. Ex. 23:2, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil"

II. The Urge to Be Accepted by the World

- A. James 4:4, "Friendship with the world is enmity with God"
 - B. The Christian should not desire or seek the approbation of the world that crucified his Savior.
 - 1. The great distinction between the church and the world.
 - I John 2:15, 16, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.
 - If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
 - For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."
 - 2. "Love not the world," cries John.
- A multitude of voices echo his words.
- The shores of time are strewn with many a wreck, each serving as a beacon to point out the ~~stock~~ on which they stranded.
- ~~Here~~ The MERCHANT who worked seven days in the week, who forgot God in piling up riches, and failed at the last, cries, "Love not the world!"

~~Here~~ The MILLIONAIRE who inherited a fortune
and doubled it every ten years,
and drained every cup of pleasure,
and now faces death with a tainted body and
a leprous character,

cries, "Love not the world."

~~Here~~ The STATESMAN who reached the senate chamber
and laid his hand on dishonest money
and went down in ignominy,

cries, "Love not the world!"

~~Here~~ The BRILLIANT JOURNALIST, THE CLEVER STUDENT,
THE GIFTED ARTIST,
who reached distinction at the sacrifice of strength,
life, reputation, and honor,
cry, "Love not the world!"

Could we lift the curtain that shrouds the tomb,
what awful warnings would break upon our ears!

The MISER, SPENDTHRIFT, DRUNKARD, LIBERTINE, SENSUALIST
all join in saying that gluttony is shame,
and drunkenness woe, and debauchery corruption,
and the wages of sin death.

"Love not the world!"

2. By the cross the world expressed its hatred
of the things of God.

a. They said, "We will not have this man." Lk. 19:14

b. "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute
you. If the world hate you, ye know that
it hated me before it hated you."

C. The true Christian abandons concern for the favor of
a godless world.

III. The URGE TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE LORD

A. The Primary Need of all

B. Should be the Supreme Concern of all

Only as the church is free from the influence of the
world can she achieve real effectiveness in
God's work in the world.

C. The Highest Reward of all.

1. Ps. 149:4, The Lord taketh pleasure in His people.

2. Mt. 3:17, This is my Beloved Son in Whom
I am well pleased."

Eph. 1:6, "Accepted in the beloved"