



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of March 13, 2023

1. Read 1 John 2:15-17. Two key words here need explanation if we're going to understand John's command to Christians: "LOVE" and "WORLD". Is John talking about romantic, sentimental love? Is John talking about hating the physical world (the planet) or the people living on the planet (humans)? Explain the correct meaning of these words.
2. Pastor Ryan explained that "*Worldiness is not your presence in the world, but the world's presence in you.*" What did he mean by that? What is worldliness?
3. What words or phrases would you use to describe today's secular "world system"? Look at 1 John 5:19, 2 Cor. 4:4, and 2 Timothy 3:1-5 before you answer. With whom does today's secular system more closely align: God or Satan?
4. Read the "if-then" statement that John writes in verse 15. How would you rephrase this in your own words? Why is it impossible for a true Christian to maintain divided loyalties between God and a secular world?
5. What did Jesus say about divided loyalties in Matthew 6:24? What did James say in James 4:4? What advice or counsel would you give to a Christian friend who is caught up in worldly beliefs and behaviors?
6. John provides a famous trilogy of categories that summarizes all the sinful experiences and temptations that exist in the secular world. How would you explain them in your own words? Can you give an example of each?
 - a. *The lust of the flesh.*
 - b. *The lust of the eyes.*
 - c. *The pride of life.*
7. In your opinion, where are the places/experiences/things where today's 21st Christians most often fall into the flow of worldliness? Explain your answer.
8. If worldliness is such a problem, what is the solution for the Christian? What are some tangible ways you can start to wean your heart away from worldliness?