

What if others don't share our convictions?

CJ Mahaney – "Mention worldliness, and you're sure to encounter opposing views among Christians. The conflict often reveals a wrong focus on externals. Some people try to define worldliness as living outside a specific set of rules or conservative standards. If you listen to music with a certain beat, dress in fashionable clothes, watch movies with a certain rating, or indulge in certain luxuries of modern society, surely you must be worldly. Others, irritated and repulsed by rules that seem arbitrary, react to definitions of worldliness, assuming it's impossible to define. Or they think legalism will inevitably be the result, so we shouldn't even try. Ready for a surprise? Both views are wrong. For by focusing exclusively on externals or dismissing the importance of externals, we've missed the point...the root issue is within."

We need to be ruthless with seeking out and killing the sin in our own hearts

But what happens if others do things differently than we do?

It Can't Be Both!

David Traugott
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ESV James 4:4-5 *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?*

What brews beneath the surface...

Looking at what came before this text...James 4:1-3

Opposing worldviews: God-centric vs. man-centric

CJ Mahaney says the book *Worldliness*, "The world we're not to love is the organized system of human civilization that is actively hostile to God and alienated from God."

We cannot be friends with God *and* with the world, they are absolutely incompatible.

1. Marriage/Covenant Implications

James 4:4 *You adulterous people!*

God is a jealous God!
James 4:5

Loving God is necessarily exclusive
Matthew 6:24

2. Spiritual Adultery

James 4:4

The seriousness of our joining ourselves with the world is due to our being in covenant with God

Jeff Purswell, in *Worldliness, Resisting the seduction of a Fallen World* - "Worldliness is not a matter of matter, but of the heart. The "world" we're forbidden to love is not the earthly creation but the rebellious, independent, God-rejecting mindset of those who inhabit this creation. It is mankind in settled opposition to God. Therefore, we must not share this world's outlook, live by it's values, cherish its cravings, or pursue its goals."

Why is friendship akin to adultery?

- Friends share values, cravings, goals, etc.

Enmity defined – Webster's 1828, "The quality of being an enemy; the opposite of friendship; ill will; hatred...A state of opposition"

3. What does it look like to be a friend of the world?

Sharing the mindset of the world informs the "why" behind what we will do and won't do.

We are a friend of the world by being self/man centered

We are a friend of the world if our goals are driven by what we want in this life

Q - What does this mean about how I relate to people in the world?

1 Corinthians 5:9-10