



Key Notes

What in the world has gotten into the church?

It is a good thing for a boat to be in the water. But when water gets in the boat we have a major problem. Likewise, it is a good thing for the church to be in the world. But when the world gets in the church... well, you get the idea.

Unfortunately, preachers sometimes tend to equate "worldliness" with externals such as jewelry, hair style, clothing, music preference, entertainment, etc. Such messages miss the point. While externals such as these may be important, when used as a litmus test to judge others, we only succeed in revealing our own hypocrisy.

However, we must be very careful that in rejecting the legalism we do not throw out the proverbial baby with the bath water. The time is ripe to again warn the contemporary church about the dangers of worldliness. Water is getting in the boat!

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

John points out that worldliness can be recognized by three irrefutable marks:

- The things our senses crave (carnal pleasures).
- The things our appetites lust for (greed).
- The things we proudly boast about (image).

Worldliness is a mind-set. It is a reflection of our deepest loves and desires. To be "worldly" is to live by the spirit of the age, to adapt the values and standards of pagan society and live as if "the world to come" didn't matter.

Friend, are you in the world... or is the world in you? Whether you drive a Lexus or a Hyundai, whether you shop at Wal-Mart or Abercrombie & Fitch, whether you pierce your ears or your nose... tells only part of the story. The true nature of your heart is revealed only by the things you love.

The Spirit is here this morning to search our minds and hearts. He alone can help you to determine how much water has gotten into your boat.

Pastor Stan