

We pursue spiritual maturity in the 'true life'. | John 2:12-14

"I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father." (v.13)

- Some are "little children:" We all begin our journey in Christ's forgiveness.
- Some are "young men:" We grow strong from the Word of God to "overcome the evil one."
- Some are "fathers:" We faithfully know and experience God throughout our lives.

We work together to overcome the 'world's life.' | John 2:15-17

- **Establish proper priorities from God**

"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (v.15)

We do not love the "things in the world" because that prevents a love of God.

World =

| John 4:4-6, 5:19; James 4:4; II Timothy 4:10

- **Defend against the temptations of the "world"**

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world." (v.16)

Three ways the world will tempt us:

- Lust of the flesh =
- Lust of the eyes =
- Boastful pride of life =

Genesis 3:1-7 - Satan attacked Eve in the Garden this way. (See Digging Deeper on the back)

Matthew 4:1-11 - Satan attacked Jesus this way.

- **Expect consequences from our choices**

"The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever." (v.17)

The consequences of choosing either "the world" or God:

- Choose the things in this world and we will perish.
- Choose God and we live forever.

Digging Deeper:

A true life in Christ will have priorities that align with God's instruction from the Bible. But we must also recognize the values of this world and how different they are from God's priorities.

LifeGroup Discussion:

First, do not love the things of the world, for you cannot love God and the world's values at the same time.

What does James 4:4 teach regarding loving this world and loving God? How do people act when they love the things in this world according to II Timothy 4:10?

Second, know what the three areas of temptation are and observe them in action in Genesis 3 with Adam and Eve and in Matthew 4 with Jesus. *What are those three areas listed in I John 2:16?*

In Genesis 3, Eve is attacked and tempted by Satan so that she and Adam will disobey God. He entices them with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

Read Genesis 3:1-6. In verse 6:

1st Satan appealed to her desire for the forbidden food which is lust of the flesh. Our body will make us feel we need things that God has forbidden. Think of the abusive use of drugs or alcohol to feel better, adultery to feel loved, angry reactions to feel justified or overeating to feel comforted. What forbidden desires tempt you?

2nd Satan appealed to her lust of the eyes by showing how that forbidden fruit was a "delight to the eyes." What she wants is now more important than what God wants for her. What foods, habits, financial expenditures are a "delight to your eyes" but you should not indulge in them?

3^d Satan appealed to her pride. He made her feel that eating of the forbidden fruit was desirable to make her wise. In a sense, she would be her own god and authority, choosing what is right and wrong for her.

Pride can be expressed in what I call the **5 P's of Pride** listed below.

How are you tempted in the following areas? Do you need these to feel valued and important or for self-worth?

- Position** My status in life, what I have achieved is what gives me value and importance.
- Prestige** How I want others to view me, what I do to make people think I have value and importance.
- Power** What I control, or am responsible for, gives me value. If I lost that power I would have less value, self-worth and importance.
- Possessions** Obtain more money, things, the larger home, more expensive car—these things give me value and make me feel important.
- Pleasure** I deserve to feel good and be happy, so I pursue anything that makes me feel good and happy even if God says it is wrong.

I John 2:17 states that these things will pass away, but we need to pursue the will of God. You can achieve a good position, be thought of in a good light by others, enjoy powerful responsibilities, own many possessions and have pleasure in life. But these become "things of the world" when you believe your value, self-worth and importance are based on achieving those things. That is a worldly value, not from God.

What things of this world did Paul count as a loss compared to the value of knowing Jesus Christ in Philippians 3:1-8? What did he really pursue as important in Philippians 3:8-14? How are you pursuing those things in your life?

Next Steps:

- 1. Take some first steps toward spiritual maturity** by getting involved in a discipleship relationship. This would be a one-on-one set of meetings with a mature Christian who will walk with you for a season to help you work through areas of spiritual maturity and growth. **For more info, contact Laura Copeland, Grow Ministries Director, at lcopeland@calvarylife.org or 714.550.2398.**
- 2. Connect in a LifeGroup** for support and encouragement to grow in your faith with others. LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary's campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups