



James 4:4 Pt 2 Worldisms! ☺

Oct 4, 2015

Text: James 4:4

1. The word for *friendship* here in Greek is “philia” which is related to the word “philos,” which means “properly *dear*, that is, a *friend*; actively *fond*, that is, *friendly*.” Also related to the word for “love.”
 - *James 2:23 ESV and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"--and he was called a **friend** of God. (philos)*
 - This implies an intimate familiarity and fondness. Not good!
2. The word for *world* is “kosmos.” According to Thayer, it can mean, depending on context:
 - a. An apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government
 - b. Ornament, decoration, adornment, i.e. the arrangement of the stars, ‘the heavenly hosts’, as the ornament of the heavens.
 - c. The world, the universe
 - d. The circle of the earth or the earth
 - e. The inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family
 - f. The ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ
 - g. World affairs, the aggregate of things earthly
 - h. The whole circle of earthly goods, endowments riches, advantages, pleasures, etc, which although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ
3. **The Kosmos: A System of Strategic Warfare against Christ!**
 - I believe that the *kosmos* in the context of James 4:4 is indeed a “harmonious arrangement or order” of the “ungodly multitude” that fights against our LORD. It is a satanically inspired system of ideologies, philosophies, governments, and jurisdictions.
 - Those are big statements. Let’s let the Scripture talk....

*Matthew 4:8-10 ESV Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the **world** and their glory. (9) And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."*

*John 12:31-32 ESV Now is the judgment of this **world**; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. (32) And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*

*John 14:30-31 ESV I will no longer talk much with you, for the **ruler of this world** is coming. He has no claim on me, (31) but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.*

*John 15:18-19 ESV "If the **world** hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the **world**, the **world** would love you as its own; but because you are not of the **world**, but I chose you out of the **world**, therefore the world hates you.*

John 16:7-11 ESV Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (8) And when

he comes, he will convict the **world** concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; (10) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Romans 3:19 ESV Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the **whole** world may be held accountable to God.

1 Corinthians 3:19 ESV For the wisdom of this **world** is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

Galatians 4:3 ESV In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the **world**.

1 John 2:15-17 ESV Do not love the **world** or the things in the **world**. If anyone loves the **world**, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the **world**--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the **world**. (17) And the **world** is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Ephesians 2:1-2 ESV "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—" (Ephesians 2:1-2, ESV)

Colossians 2:8 ESV See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the **world**, and not according to Christ.

1 John 4:1-4 ESV Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the **world**. (2) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, (3) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the **world** already. (4) Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the **world**.

4. One of my favorite commentators, William MacDonald, echoes my sentiments when he writes:

"Worldliness is also enmity with God. The world does not mean the planet on which we live, or the world of nature about us. It is the system which man has built up for himself in an effort to satisfy the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. In this system there is no room for God or His Son. It may be the world of art, culture, education, science, or even religion. But it is a sphere in which the name of Christ is unwelcome or even forbidden, except, of course, as an empty formality. It is, in short, the world of mankind outside the sphere of the true church. To be a friend of this system is to be an enemy of God. It was this world that crucified the Lord of life and glory. In fact, it was the *religious* world that played the key role in putting Him to death. How unthinkable it is that believers should ever want to walk arm-in-arm with the world that murdered their Savior!"

Worldisms!

Friends, I'd like to submit to you Ten "Worldisms" that I believe are used by the enemy against Christ, His Church, and His Word.

- They are popular. They are so woven into the fabric of the Kosmos that you might struggle to believe it. They are pushed forward by "the prince of this world," "the prince of the power of the air." They are filled with "empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."
- They are held up and advanced by hip and trendy politicians, entertainers, authors, bloggers, newscasters, educators, sadly some pastors, and other drivers of culture.
- Each one of these worldisms has done immeasurable damage to the church and to the culture.

May the LORD help us discern the truth of His Word and will. In no particular order....

1. **Atheism** (There is no god)
 - *Psalms 14:1 ESV The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.*
2. **Humanism** (The idea that man is good or that man is his own god)
 - *Psalms 53:3 ESV They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*
 - *1 Timothy 2:5 ESV For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*
 - Related to this is the worldism of individualism: again that man is morally good and is therefore self-reliant. Taken to an extreme, you get a "me me me, my my my" culture.
3. **Feminism** (In modern terms, the idea that there should be NO distinctions between male and female)
 - *Matthew 19:4 ESV He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,*
4. **Transgenderism** (and other forms of sexual deviancy like homosexuality)
 - *1 Timothy 1:8-10 ESV Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, (9) understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, (10) the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine...*
5. **Pragmatism** (Whatever "works," do it. The end justifies the means.)
 - *2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*
6. **Intellectualism** (Knowledge and truth can only be derived from reason...from what man can prove)
 - *1 Corinthians 3:18-19 ESV (18) Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. (19) For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness,"*

7. **Consumerism** (The preoccupation with the acquisition of goods; an obvious form of idolatry)
 - *Luke 12:23 ESV For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.*
 - *1 Timothy 6:6-8 ESV Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, (7) for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. (8) But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.*

8. **Racism** (One race is superior to another; the hatred of others because of race)
 - *Acts 17:26 ESV And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place...*

9. **Exhibitionism** (the desire to attract attention to oneself)
 - Scripture not only teaches the principle of modesty (1 Tim 2:9-11; 1 Pet 3:3-5), but also of dignified, quiet living...
 - *1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 ESV (9) Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, (10) for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, (11) and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, (12) so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.*

10. **Socialism**/Marxism/Communism/Fascism (In simple terms, the deification of the State)
 - The death tolls of these systems of government are off the charts, in the 20th Century alone (You shall not murder!)
 - These systems promote legalized theft. (You shall not steal!)
 - These systems persecute Christ and His Church (You shall have no other God's before me!)
 - These systems essentially declare the State is god and semi-worship their leader. (You shall not make for yourself a carved image!)

Bottom line for the Believer:

Colossians 1:15-18 ESV He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (16) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. (17) And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (18) And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Final Thoughts:

Obviously, much more can be said on these worldisms. ☺ But I wanted you to see a few of them and hopefully see that taken together, they form a spiritually toxic mix in which our world (and sadly, even the church) is saturated. Good has become evil and evil good.

Refuse to be "friendly" with the world systems, precious saints! Flee to Christ and serve Him. To do otherwise makes one "an enemy of God."

Amen.