

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I John 2:15-17 “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. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

Quote: What do your choices say about who you really are, about who you want to be and about your desire to honor the Lord through your life?

We swim in an ocean of conflicting values and immoral dangers that assault our beliefs and vie for our affection. One great challenge for Christians is how to be in the world, but *not a lover of the world*. The Bible classifies the things of the world according to three powerful influences upon mankind’s “humanness”—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.¹ Being of the world involves self-centered attitudes and ambitions that are dominated by the spirit of the age in which we live; it runs counter to being controlled by the Spirit of God Who compels us to “love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength,” and to “love our neighbor as our self.”

Consistently warring against the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is one evidence of spiritual life. The lust of the flesh involves the corrupted desires of our “unredeemed humanness.” It “indulges in appetites that wrongfully excite sensual pleasures,” and includes getting what is desired for sinful purposes.² For instance, the God-given attraction to the opposite sex can lead to a life of loyal love for one’s spouse, or it can morph into a sinful attraction for someone else, resulting in the sinful act of adultery. The lust of the eyes “involves the sin of covetousness,”² or obsessing over something that you do not have. It can lead to misplaced priorities, discontentment and the greed to get more at the expense of the grace to give more.³ The lust of the eyes can also refer to thinking sinful thoughts that bring mental pleasure without actually committing the sinful actions that

could flow from them. Indulgence in pornography is an example. Christ condemns this kind of thinking as sin.⁴ The pride of life thirsts after honor and applause.”² It is boastful assurance in your resources and abilities. It refers to whatever tends to promote arrogance. The pride of life is an affront to God as the Giver of every good and perfect gift ranging from our next breath to the salvation of our souls.⁵ David prayed, “Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.”⁶ Paul asked the prideful Corinthian Christians, “Who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”⁷

“You only go around once in this life so you have to grab all the gusto you can get.” That beer ad from by-gone days articulates the mindset of those obsessed with pursuing “the good life.” Solomon was the ultimate pace-setter! “Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; and this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.”⁸ He who “had it all” found out that the futile pursuit of “the things of the world” leaves you feeling joyless and even hating the life that which you once held dear!⁹ He then gave some sage advice. “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; *But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity.*” Joy is inseparable from purity. The truly wise and joyful person will live in the light of a judgment that is personal and permanent!

**Joy through
purity!**

1 | John 2:16 2 | M. Henry 3 | Tim.6:10 4 | Matt.5:28 5 | James 1:16-18; Acts 17:28 6 | Chron.29:12 7 | Corin.4:7 8 | Eccles.2:10-13 9 | 2:17