

THE WORLD IS NOT GOD'S FRIEND

Family Devotion – Lesson 38

MEMORY VERSE – EXODUS 25:8

“And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.”

- God told Moses to tell the people of Israel to build a sanctuary. The sanctuary was a special place for worship. Specific instructions were given on how to build this portable tabernacle. It would be the place where God would dwell among them.
- God desires to dwell among people. He wants the world to know Christ and receive His love (Jn. 3:16). The problem is that the world does not want to dwell with God. *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world”* (1 Jn. 2:16)
 - 1) THE LUST OF THE FLESH - giving your flesh whatever it desires is worldly
 - 2) THE LUST OF THE EYES - looking at whatever you desire is worldly
 - 3) THE PRIDE OF LIFE - becoming whatever you desire in order to boast about yourself is worldly
- Many of the churches today have become worldly in nature. The services revolve around appeasing the flesh, eyes, and pride. This is wrong! God's people are to be holy, not worldly. *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ”* (Col. 2:8).
 - 1) Philosophy (man's wisdom) has taken precedent over the Word of God.
 - 2) Deceit (lying) has robbed many of their finances...“Give money in order to go to Heaven.”
 - 3) Tradition has been more important than than doing things according to God's word.
 - 4) Rudiments of the world (the world's systems, ways, and values) have corrupted the church.
- God's people must allow Jesus to be preeminent (first place) in the church (Col. 1:18). He is the reason, purpose, and focus of what we do. He should be given all the praise and glory. When the church does this, God will certainly “dwell” with His people in a special way.



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Can you think of a tradition in churches that goes against what the Bible teaches?
- In what ways should the church atmosphere be different than the world?



PRAYER TIME

- Pray for God to protect the church from becoming worldly.
- Ask God to help you reach the world with the gospel.
- Ask God to meet with us as a church in a special way for this Sunday.



CHALLENGE

- The next time you go to church, count how many times you hear the name JESUS.