

THE RELIGION OF THE UNGODLY

August 2, 2020

Have you noticed the increasingly religious type of fervor trying to change our society? Even though freedom of religion is enshrined in our bill of rights, there is talk of overthrowing it. Error can't stand the Truth.

These man-made organizations, upset by God's wisdom, will create their own false ways. Altogether, they are popular (broad and wide) ways that lead to death Pro 14:12. There is one way that leads to life. Mat 7:13,14

Pagan idolaters in the OT ignorantly worshiped gods they made with their hands. Jer 10:1-5 People elevated the signs of heaven, what they didn't understand, like man today ignorantly elevate wisdom of man and the creature higher than the Creator - Rom 10:2,3. Like the idols of old, today's wise men tell the people what they want to hear, not the Truth.

Our priorities are to #1, save ourselves and then #2, save our neighbors (those that will listen to us) 1Ti 4:15,16 . We must oppose and expose the wisdom of the world and present not only God's truth, but also ourselves consistent with that truth. 1Pe 3:15 and 2Ti 2:15.

How do we help those that are scoffers in the world and living a life inconsistent with truth to see God's wisdom?

There are some Biblical principles involved in dealing with the ungodly wisdom (religion) of the world.

1. Separate ourselves from the world.

In the Old Testament:

EZR 10:11 "Now therefore, make confession to the Lord God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the pagan wives." (NKJ)

In the New Testament:

2CO 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." (NKJ)

Do not speak like the world; use pure speech. Choose words that are above reproach as opposed to the words used by the ungodly.

1JO 4:5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak {as} of the world, and the world hears them. Mat 12:36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Col 4:6 *Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you

ought to answer each one.

We will also be excluded by them because of the Lord's teaching.

LUK 6:22 Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile {you}, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. (NKJ)

Recognize this as a worldly tactic to create loneliness Gal 4:17 opposite of withdrawing 2Th 3:6

Our friends are our brethren. These are our family.

JAM 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (NKJ)

(Mark 10:29-30 NKJ)

(29) So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, (30) "who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time - houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions - and in the age to come, eternal life.

2. Refuse to hide the light of the truth.

PHI 2:15,16 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. (NKJ)

The world asks us to put a cover (mask) on the light of the gospel while we are in their presence: MAT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (NKJ)

Recognize your responsibility to have the light examined by those that love the truth.

JOH 3:19-21 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (NKJ)

a. Live Godly:

Righteousness happens in our minds first, not in our actions. This will manifest itself in our actions. "As a man thinketh, so is he..." Pro 23:7

ROM 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what {is} that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJ)

COL 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (NKJ)

Live according to our convictions. Don't be a hypocrite, keep the commands.

TIT 2:12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (NKJ)

Do good and be good: JAM 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, {and} to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (NKJ)

3. Cheer up – even when hated by the ungodly:

JOH 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before {it hated} you. (NKJ)JOH 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (NKJ)

JOH 16:20 "Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. (NKJ)

JOH 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (NKJ)

4. Remind the ungodly to fear God and reject worldly wisdom

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. See also vs 12 re exposing them without speaking of their deeds.

1CH 16:30 Tremble before Him, all the earth. the world also is Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. (NKJ)

PSA 33:8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. (NKJ)

PSA 96:13 For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth. (NKJ)

Wisdom of men explain an origin that does not include the Creator, yet Jeremiah says: He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion. JER 10:12

Wisdom of men will never be able to discover all of the wisdom of God's creation. ECC 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. (NKJ)

5. Beware of Satan's efforts to catch us.

COL 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the

tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. (NKJ)

Satan is working in the hearts of the ungodly to deceive them: 2CO 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (NKJ)

1JO 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies {under the sway of} the wicked one. (NKJ)

Although we may have some experience because of having come out of sin; EPH 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,...; we must be careful lest Satan get the advantage of us. 2Co 2:11

6. Deal with false religion using God's wisdom: compassion or fear.

(Jude 1:16-23 NKJ)

These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling *words*, flattering people to gain advantage. (17) But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: (18) how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. (19) These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. (20) But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, (21) keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (22) And on some have compassion, making a distinction; (23) but others save with fear, pulling {them} out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

With some we make a compassionate distinction; 1JO 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love {his} brother abides in death. (NKJ)

While others we treat with fear lest we be affected by their defilements.

In the church, we must avoid them after making the compassionate distinction: 1CO 5:9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. (NKJ)1CO 5:10 Yet {I} certainly {did} not {mean} with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. (NKJ)1CO 5:11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner - not even to eat with such a person. (NKJ)

2PE 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. (NKJ)2PE 2:21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known {it}, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. (NKJ)2PE 2:22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." (NKJ)

EPH 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual {hosts} of wickedness in the heavenly {places}. (NKJ)