

A satellite image of Earth from space, showing the Arctic region and parts of North America. The image is in a false-color palette where land is dark green, water is dark blue, and ice/snow is light blue. The curvature of the Earth is visible at the top.

Worldly, Who Me?

(James 4:4)

Proverbs 27:5 & 6a

⁵ Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend,

“When a friend confronts, it will usually hurt but it is intended to heal and restore.” – J. Kitchen

James 4:4 (ESV)

⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

I. Charge against –

Deuteronomy 7:6

⁶ For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 31:16

¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses, “Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers; and this people will arise and play the harlot with the strange gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

Isaiah 54:5a -

⁵ “For your husband is your Maker,
Whose name is the LORD of hosts;

Jeremiah 3:20

²⁰ “Surely, as a woman treacherously departs from her lover, So you have dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel,” declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 16:20 & 32

²⁰ “Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter?

³² You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!

Hosea 1:2, 9:1

² When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and *have* children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the LORD.”

¹ Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations! For you have played the harlot, forsaking your God. You have loved *harlots'* earnings on every threshing floor.

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

I. Charge against –
unfaithfulness

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

II. Condition –

Romans 12:10

¹⁰ *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Hebrews 13:1

¹ Let love of the brethren
continue.

“Living affections to dying things.” – J. Owens

John 15:18 & 19

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you.

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

John 17:14-17

¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

“The organized system of human civilization that is actively hostile to God and alienated from God.”

– C. J. Mahaney

Romans 5:10

¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

II. Condition – Worldliness

I John 2:15

¹⁵ 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.

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 & 19

¹⁸ Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun *during* the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.

¹⁹ Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

“Living your life as if this world and this temporal life is all there is. It is a way of thinking and living that rejects God’s rule. It is enthusiasm for the temporal and apathy for the eternal.”

– T. Challies

Matthew 6:19

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

“Worldliness is to gratify and exalt oneself to the exclusion of God. It is when my affections are focused constantly on temporal things. It is a failure to renew our minds by the Word of God so we can live in a manner pleasing to God. It is the failure to live in distinctly Godly ways and to become who God has called us to be through the Gospel.” – J. Beeke

“Worldliness is trying to live without God.” – I. Murray

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

CAUSE

- Compromise leading to

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

CAUSE

- Compromise leading to conformity

“Worldliness takes only apathy.”
- J. Stott

“Worldliness sets in where
grace fueled effort in
sanctification is absent.”

– D. Harvey

“Worldliness is whatever makes
sin look normal and
righteousness look strange.”

- K. DeYoung

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

CAUSE

- Compromise leading to conformity
- Drifting

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

CAUSE

- Compromise leading to conformity
- Drifting
- Seduction of stuff

“Although Christians have new hearts, remaining sin in our lives produces cravings that compete with God for supremacy in our hearts. The evil in our desires is not in what we want, but in the fact that we want it too much. Legitimate desires become false gods that we are worshipping.”

— D. Powlison

“When someone sets his affections upon the cross and the love of Christ, he crucifies the world as a dead and undesirable thing.” – J. Owens

Worldly, Who Me? (James 4:4)

III. Choices –

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Either/Or

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵ If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Galatians 5:16

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.



Watch your walk!

Ephesians 5:15

¹⁵ Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

Proverbs 4:23

²³ Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.



Fear God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

¹³ The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to every person*.



Glory in God's Grace.