

## Principle or Preference - Notes

### 1 John 2:15-17 - On Not Loving the World

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Q. Is technology a contributing factor to potential Godless World?

**2 Tim 3:** <sup>3</sup> But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup> People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

<sup>6</sup> They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, <sup>7</sup> always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. <sup>9</sup> But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

God is watching and will have the final say on our actions, behaviors and sins.

God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity

**Romans 1:18-32** <sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the

truth by their wickedness,<sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.<sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

<sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.<sup>27</sup> In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.<sup>29</sup> They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,<sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;<sup>31</sup> they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.<sup>32</sup> Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

## **Back to Old school! We Must Do Good for the Sake of the Gospel and keep it simple!**

**Titus 2** <sup>2</sup>You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup>Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

<sup>3</sup>Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

<sup>4</sup>Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

<sup>6</sup>Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup>In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup>and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

<sup>9</sup>Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, <sup>10</sup>and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

<sup>12</sup>**It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions,** and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

<sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

<sup>15</sup>These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

## **I. With the fast pace of the times, and un-Godly settings all around us, how do you make significant decisions in your daily lives?**

### **II. History**

A. After conquering Jerusalem, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon selected the brightest and most capable young Jewish men. Along with others, Daniel was trained in the culture, literature, religion, and world view of his captors.

B. Daniel and the other young men knew how to make righteous choices even in an ungodly setting.

### **III. Let's talk about Principle vs. Preference**

A. **Principle**—A fixed or predetermined mode of conduct, or a moral rule based on the Word of God. As Christians, we should live by convictions that are grounded in the Word of God.

B. **Preference**—A moral choice based on the likes and dislikes or whatever seems best in the moment. A person who operates on this basis asks, “What’s going to make me feel good, please me, honor me, or benefit me?”

### **IV. Daniel's Example**

A. **Refusing the king's rich food.** Daniel 1:1-16 - Rather than eat non-kosher food, Daniel asked if he and his friends could eat only vegetables and drink only water.

B. **Disregarding the law against prayer.** When prayer was outlawed, Daniel continued to kneel daily before the Lord. Although he was arrested and thrown into a pit of lions, God spared his life, (Daniel 6:4-24).

## **V. Areas of Principle (Who are we in this world today and what do we stand for)?**

Our choices should be guided by **core beliefs** such as these:

- A. Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world** (John 14:6).
- B. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and, as such, is infallible and inerrant** (2 Tim. 3:16).
- C. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit** (1 Cor. 6:19).
- D. Money is not a god** (Hebrews 13:5).
- E. The proper place for sexual relations is marriage** (1 Thess. 4:3-7).

## **VI. When we Live by Preference**

People fail to align their lives with biblical principles because of . . .

- A. The fear of rejection**
- B. Greed**
- C. Compromise**

## **VII. Even in today's Changing High-tech world - We must be people who Live by Principle**

Daniel and his friends were willing to die rather than worship a false god. We should have the same commitment to obeying God. Sometimes He will rescue you; other times, He will walk with you through difficulty or persecution.

How can you become a person of conviction? Here are 5 ways, we must:

- 1. Live for a cause greater than yourself.** In other words, live for Jesus Christ and His kingdom.
- 2. Know what you believe.** Don't even consider choices that are forbidden by God's Word.

3. **Expect conflict.** If you live by godly principles, not everyone will understand. Your high standards may make others so uncomfortable that they reject you.
4. **Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him.** Decide to follow His direction without regard to the results of obedience. He is with you no matter what happens.
5. **Even in this High-tech, fast pace changing world, Remember our Lord is sovereign.** He is absolutely in control of all that happens in this world.

### **IIX. Conclusion:**

**Principle or preference:** Which of these two words best describes how you live? Are you IN THE WORLD? My prayer is that you will choose to live your life based on the unchanging truths found in God's Word.