

Are Bad Habits and Worldly Pleasures Sin?

Worldly pleasures that do not make one spiritual, morally pure, physically clean, or more godly and consecrated to the highest good of all is sinful. Mrs. Wesley gave her children a good rule or test whereby they could know the lawfulness or unlawfulness of a pleasure. It was, “Whatever impairs the tenderness of your conscience, weakens your reason, obscures your sense of God, or dulls your deep desire for spiritual things; whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind and will, that thing to you is sin.”

The Bible says, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” ([1 Jn. 2:15-17](#)); “Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” ([Jas. 4:4](#)); “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” ([Rom. 12:1-2](#)).

Scripture indicates that we are to live our lives very differently from those who don't follow Christ: “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you . . . The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But these things will they do unto you for my name's sake' because they know not him that sent me” ([Jn. 15:18-21](#)); “The world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” ([Jn. 17:14-16](#)).

Can anyone argue scripturally and with a clear conscience that worldly pleasures are of God? Can any claim that they make one spiritual, Christ-like, godly, morally pure, physically better, and the best example for Christians to set before sinners? Can anyone claim that they are definitely of God and helpful in any way to the Christian life? Has anyone ever been saved through any of them? How many hundreds of thousands of sinners stumble daily over church members who indulge in sin? What can such acts be called but lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life?

One only has to look at the lives of godly and consecrated people of God to see the difference between worldly pleasures that draw us toward God and those that draw us away. Why do church members who indulge in worldly pleasures have to always explain and apologize to sinners and real Christians for indulging in such practices? Why do not such church members pray the blessing of God upon such practices when they do them? Why do they feel so condemned for doing such things? Why do many of them seek to hide such practices from real Christians? Why do many of them always want to know whether such practices are sinful or not?

On the other hand, no such questions are ever raised about whether it is wrong to pray, go to church, serve God, and do godly things. Why is it that men who are really

saved from their sins and become new creatures have perfect freedom from these habits? Why does God deliver these people from such things if they were godly habits? Why do sinners expect men to be saved from such things when they become Christians? Why do real Christians take up such habits again when they backslide? We all know the answers to these questions, just as we know that such pleasures are sinful and unbecoming to Christians. Therefore, let us all get saved from such habits.