

Christian Families Take a Stand Against Materialism

Introduction

We live in a world where we're constantly being told to put ourselves first. "Feed yourself," "Pamper yourself," "Promote yourself." "After all," the world says, "you deserve it!" However, God, in His Word, commands us to put Him and His kingdom first. The Lord also commands us to serve our neighbor and put their needs ahead of our own. We desperately need the Lord's help and strength if we, and the members of our family, are going to be able to serve the Lord and others.

Scripture

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 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. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Matthew 6:19-24

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Study

1. John speaks about ways in which we are tempted to love the world rather than love God. What are those ways?

2. How do all three of the passages show that worldly thinking and godly priorities are incompatible with one another?

3. According to Romans 12:1, what motivates Christians to align their priorities with God's will?

4. What is the only way for our minds and lives to line up with God's will?

5. Agree or disagree: People who have less money are less likely to commit the sin of materialism than those with more money.

6. As Christians, how can we demonstrate that our hearts and our treasures are in heaven? How can we show that God truly is the Master in how we manage our money?

7. With your family, discuss how you struggle with materialism and how you will work together to offer your lives as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.