

Time and again, the Word of God enjoins us to not fellowship with the world but rather to keep a clean heart and follow the Light of Christ.

How is that accomplished?

1 John 2:15-17, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

2 Corinthians, 6:17-18, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

1 Corinthians 5:11, "I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner not even to eat with such a person."

1 Peter 1:13, "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

And as Jesus clearly said:

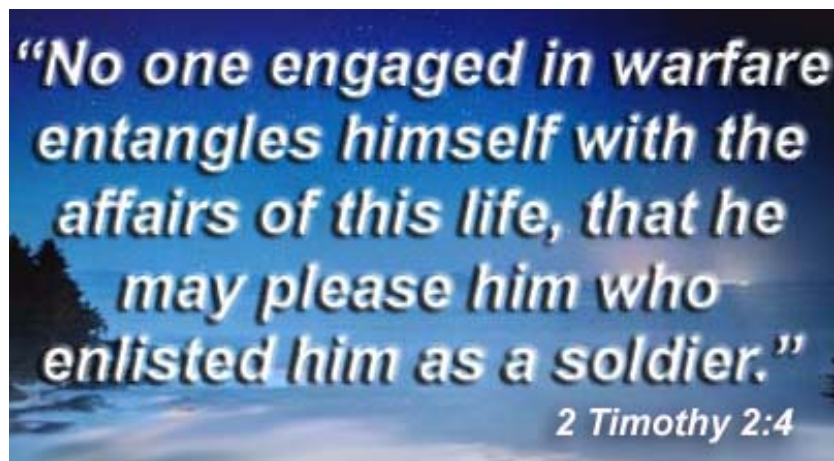
John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Introspection:

How true and genuine is my love for Christ right now?

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Why must we separate ourselves from the world's attractions to the flesh?

Romans 8:7-8, "Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

What then is our duty if we claim to truly believe in God?

Deuteronomy 7:6, "You *are* a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth."

As such:

Colossians 1:13-14, "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."

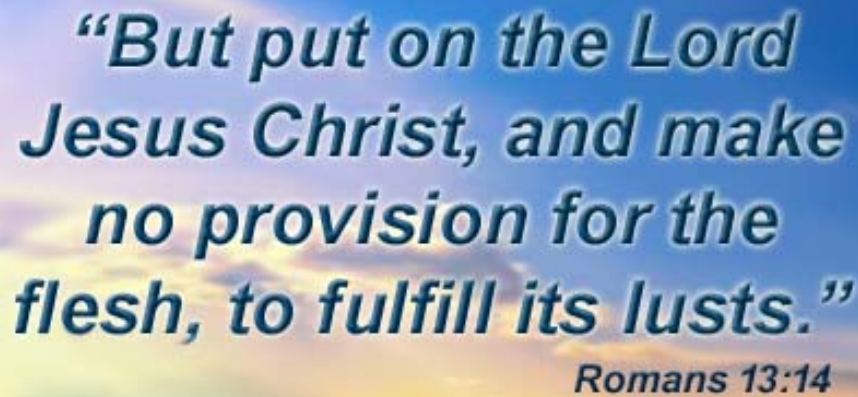
1 Peter 2:9, "You *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

The reason Jesus added:

John 15:16, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

How determined and steadfast am I to believe in God, follow Christ, abide in His Word and truly bear fruit to His glory?

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***“But put on the Lord  
Jesus Christ, and make  
no provision for the  
flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”***  
***Romans 13:14***

Where do we get the strength to stand by our faith in Christ and keep ourselves separated from the world?

In Jesus' own words:

John 17:14-17, “I have given them Your Word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth.”

What's more?

John 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.”

As such:

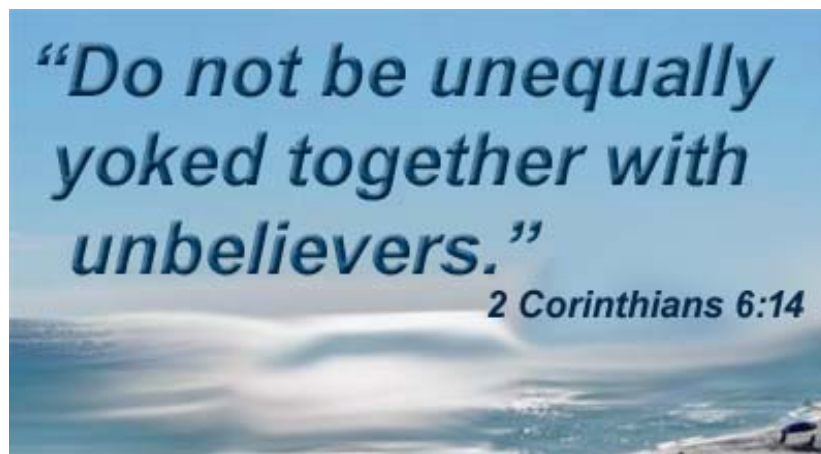
Galatians 1:3-4, “Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”

Therefore:

1 Peter 4:1-2, “Since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”

Do I steadfastly study the Word of God, to be empowered to abide in Christ and reject the world's lusts and temptations?

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To not be unequally yoked to the world requires that we be watchful and abide in Christ. How then should we live to be properly equipped to resist the world's temptations and deceptions?

Colossians 3:1, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."

Romans 12:2, "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."

Romans 16:17, "I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them."

Why?

Ephesians 5:8, 10-11, "For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*."

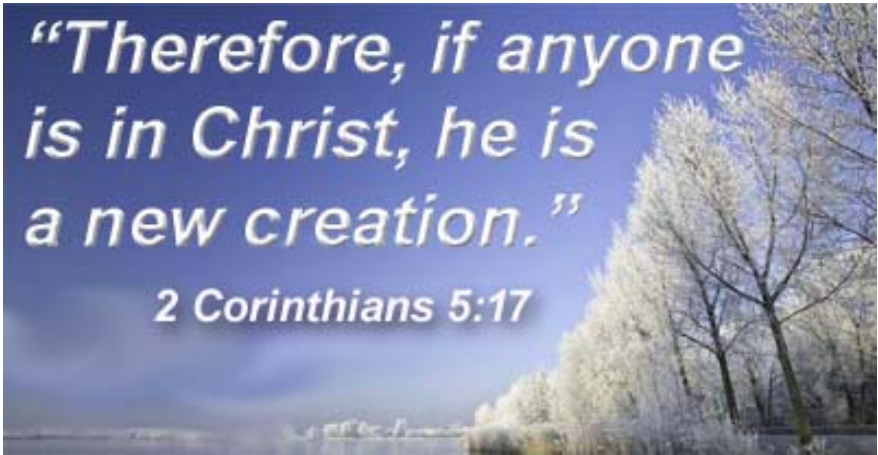
What's more?

1 John 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Therefore:

Ephesians 6:10-11, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

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*“Therefore, if anyone  
is in Christ, he is  
a new creation.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

How are we to live to truly abide in Christ and reject the world's lusts? Matthew 5:14, 16, “You are the light of the world.” “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Philippians 2:14-15, “Do all things without complaining and disputing, 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.”

Proverbs 3:3-4, “Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.”

Why?

Ephesians 2:10, “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Philippians 3:20-21, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.”

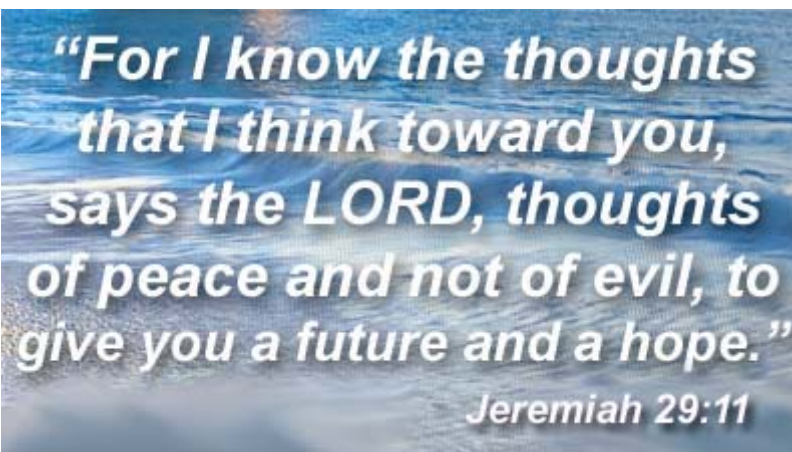
Therefore:

Romans 6:4, “We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Is my heart focused on shining the light of Christ?

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What can we expect from living separated from the world and in following Christ as Lord?

Romans 8:11, "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

As such:

Ephesians 1:3-5, "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will."

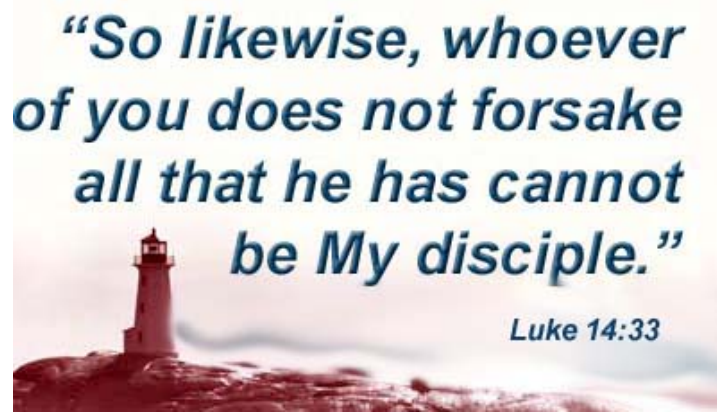
Ephesians 2:4-7, "God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ, and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

What's more?

Philippians 4:7, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Do I have the peace of God through Christ in my heart right now?

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Here's how the Word of God warns us on what to expect if we choose the world rather than following Christ:

James 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."

2 John 9, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."

Proverbs 13:20, "He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed."

1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

In Jesus' own words:

Luke 14:26, "If any man comes to Me and does not have much more love for Me than for his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be My follower."

John 15:16, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain."

Therefore:

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

Am I totally and wholeheartedly a disciple of Christ?

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