



WALKING IN THE TRUTH—PART 6  
**THE WAYS OF THE WORLD**  
OCTOBER 15, 2023

**ROMANS 1:18-32**

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.**

**The devil's strategy:**

- **Deceitful ideas**
- **that play to disordered desires (the flesh)**
- **that are normalized in a sinful society (the world).**

**John Mark Comer defines “the world” as:**

A system of ideas, values, morals, practices, and social norms that are integrated into the mainstream and eventually institutionalized in a culture corrupted by the twin sins of rebellion against God and the redefinition of good and evil.

**DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD**

**JOHN 15:18-19**

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> **If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own.** As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. **That is why the world hates you.**”

**1 JOHN 2:15-17**

**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.

**To walk in the truth, we need to be aware of the ways of this world and resist them.**

**HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD**

**ROMANS 12:1-2**

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. <sup>2</sup> **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.

**We are transformed by the renewing of our mind.**

**How are we exposing ourselves to the subtle, negative influences of the world?**

**What steps do we need to take to live a HOLY life?**