

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil: A Basic Reference Guide

"There are only two false futures that can be imagined by the world, the flesh, and the devil, the three enemies of the soul: the future of desire and the future of fate." J.D. Bernal

"Spiritual warfare is simply a Gospel response to the evil wrought by the world, the flesh, and the devil." Thomas Chalmers

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Martin Luther King Jr.

"You once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh" (Ephesians 2:2-3)

What we are to do about the evil of the world, the flesh, and the devil?

1. Hate it. "Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." Romans 12:9

"To fear the Lord is to hate evil" Proverbs 8:13

"Let those who love the Lord hate evil" Psalm 97:10

"Hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil." 1 Thes 5:22

2. Watch out for it. "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Cor 16:13-14

"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matt 26:41

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

3. Resist it. "We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Heb 4:15-15

"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7

"But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." 1 Tim 6:11-12

4. Expose it. "Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.' Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Eph 5:10-17

5. Overcome it. "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." Col 3:5

"For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Rom 8:13

"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." 1 John 4:4

"What's wrong with the world?" I am. " G.K. Chesterton