

**The Giant of Cultural Assimilation:
The Rejection of God's Requirement of Holiness**

Overall Series Statement

You cannot get the *results* God desires to give
While ignoring the *commands* God has given.

“The Giant” = GOLIATH

- Pre-Goliath problems (that led up to Goliath & other difficulties).
- Judges 2:8-23
- Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. (Similar words in Judges 21:25)

The Giant of Cultural Assimilation: The Issue

The WORLD Is an Ongoing Enemy of Our Spiritual Walk

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it* hated you.

John 17:14 "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.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one.

Eph 2:1-3 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

The CHURCH Can Become Like the World Rather than Lighting the World

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.

The Giant of Cultural Assimilation: The Word

- As a Believer in Jesus, God Expects You to Be Different
- The Word Requires a Stark Contrast Between the World and the Believer
- Ask Yourself, *Am I Different than an Unbeliever in This Way?*

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

1 Pet 1:13-16 Therefore 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; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 Thes 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

**The New Testament Is FULL of Such Passages
Here is a small selection...**

<i>Matt 5:13-16</i>	<i>Luke 8:4-15</i>	<i>Rom 1:28-32</i>	<i>Rom 13:11-14</i>
<i>1 Cor 6:12-20</i>	<i>2 Cor 6:14-18</i>	<i>Gal 6:14</i>	<i>Eph 5:1-18</i>
<i>Phil 2:14-16</i>	<i>Col 3:1-8</i>	<i>James 1:27</i>	<i>1 Pet 5:8-9</i>
<i>2 Pet 1:2-4</i>	<i>1 John 2:6</i>	<i>1 John 2:28-3:3</i>	<i>1 John 5:3-5</i>

The Giant of Cultural Assimilation: Our Response

Am I Living by Lusts or by God's Ways?

- *There is no third option.*
- *Obedience or disobedience. What drives you?*
- *Am I living by the world or with the active obedience that His grace and power allow me to live by?*
- *Am I truly living as a believer, or am I really an enemy of God? (James 4:4)*
- *Am I obeying God, or doing what is right in my eyes?*