

From the nugget series (63) by Elder Ralph Harris

"That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination to God" (Luke 16:15).

If we had no Bible and no other statement from God than the above, it alone would go a long way toward guiding us as to what we should and should not involve ourselves in as followers of that which is good. Men, in their natural state, or their native depravity, love darkness rather than light (See John 3:19) and therefore it is "the works of darkness" to which they are drawn and in which they find their greatest delight (Rom. 13:12, Eph. 5:11). They are not just *indifferent* toward the things of God, but they *hate* the light and will not come to it because it exposes and reproves their ungodliness (John 3:20).

Any time the followers of Christ find that something is popular with men in general they would do well to be very careful how they involve themselves in it, if at all. There is a wicked element out there that the apostle John referred to as "the whole world" (I John 5:19) and for whom Christ said He would not pray (John 17:9) and the thoughts of their heart is "only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). They are walking in a way that Christ said is *broad* and they entered it through a gate that is said to be *wide*, and this is where you will find the "many", all of whom are rushing madly toward destruction. Their ways should be carefully avoided.

The list of things that are popular among worldly-minded people is almost endless. And the number of things that are calculated to draw the minds and hearts of people away from God and godliness is likewise myriad. Satan does not care what form of worldliness he gets God's people mixed up in, nor how much religion they profess, just so long as they are not following and serving Christ. He hates those who bear the moral characteristics of their Lord and Saviour, and one of his greatest delights is to lead them away from Christ and into the broad way.

May the Lord help us to avoid those things that are highly esteemed among worldly-minded men and women. They promise pleasure, but they ultimately bring great pain. ---Elder Ralph

Harris