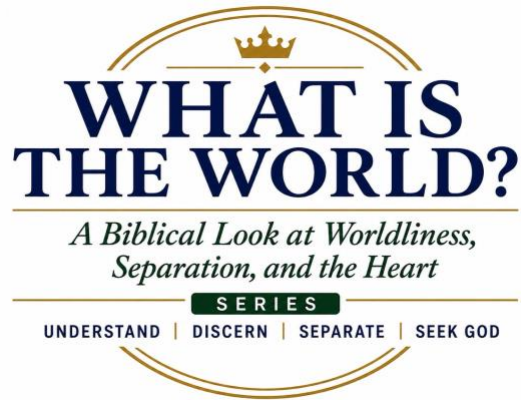




Lesson 6: Modesty, Technology, and Christian Liberty

1. What Does the Bible Mean by “The World”?	5. The Fear of Man and the Danger of Tradition
2. Plain on the Outside, Worldly on the Inside	6. Modesty, Technology, and Christian Liberty
3. The Sins We Do Not Always Call Worldly	7. Born Amish Is Not the Same as Born Again
4. Hidden Worldliness and the Lusts of the Flesh	8. You Can Leave the Amish and Still Miss Christ

Lesson Overview

The Bible teaches modesty, wisdom, and careful living. It also teaches Christian liberty. We need to understand the difference between a clear command from God, a wise personal choice, and a human rule that is treated like Scripture.

This lesson looks at clothing, technology, and freedom. Cars, electricity, phones, and computers can be used for good or evil. Christian liberty does not give us permission to satisfy the flesh. It frees us to love God, serve people, and make choices that honor Jesus Christ.

Main Scripture

Galatians 5:13

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

Main Truth

Christian liberty is not freedom to sin. God gives us freedom so we can follow His Word, use wisdom, love others, and honor Jesus Christ in every choice.

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 10:31

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Section 1: Modesty Without Legalism

The Bible teaches that clothing matters. A Christian should care whether his or her clothing is decent, modest, and proper. The answer to legalism is not to say that clothing does not matter. Our outward choices should come from a heart that wants to honor God.

1 Timothy 2:9

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;”

Modest means decent and not meant to draw wrong attention. Sobriety means sound judgment and self control. These are biblical principles. Yet the Bible does not give every Christian in every nation one exact dress pattern, color, length, or style.

Two Women and Two Dresses

Rebecca makes her own plain dresses according to the custom of her Amish church. Anna buys modest dresses from a store. Both women dress decently. Both want to honor the Lord. Both avoid clothing that would stir up lust or proudly display wealth. Rebecca is not automatically more holy because her dress was homemade. The place where a dress was made does not determine the condition of the heart.

At the same time, Anna should not say, “Since store bought clothing is not sinful, I can dress however I want.” Christian liberty still asks whether a choice honors Christ. Modesty is more than fear of what a church may say. It should grow from love for God, respect for others, and a desire for purity.

The Heart Still Matters

A plain dress cannot create humility, and a covering cannot remove jealousy. Store bought clothing does not automatically create pride or lust. Clothing can reveal choices, but only Christ can change the heart. A modest appearance should be joined with a modest spirit that is humble, pure, and not seeking improper attention.

A family or church may choose clear clothing standards. Such standards may be wise. The problem begins when one exact pattern is treated as God's command for every Christian, or when outward clothing becomes proof that a person is saved and holy.

Discussion Questions

1. What does biblical modesty teach us about the purpose of clothing?
2. Why is a homemade dress not automatic proof of a pure heart?
3. How can a family clothing rule be wise without becoming a command for every Christian?
4. Are your clothing choices guided more by love for Christ or by fear of people?

Section 2: Technology Is a Tool That Needs Wisdom

A hammer can build a house, or it can destroy something. A knife can prepare food, or it can hurt someone. We do not usually call the hammer or knife sinful. We look at how it is used. Technology works in much the same way.

A phone can spread gossip, arrange an improper relationship, waste hours, or display pornography. That same phone can call someone who is hurting, help with honest business, request prayer, play Scripture, or share the gospel. Electricity can power sinful entertainment, but it can also provide light, preserve food, run medical equipment, and power tools for honest work.

Do Not Let a Tool Control You

1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”

Something may not be sinful by itself and still become harmful. A smartphone may place temptation in a person's pocket. Entertainment may take time that belongs to God or family. Social media may feed pride, jealousy, anger, gossip, or lust. Wisdom may require strong limits or even giving up a tool that is beginning to control us.

The Lantern and the Electric Light

Jacob's family reads the Bible by a kerosene lantern. Samuel's family reads the same Bible by an electric light. We cannot decide which family pleases God by looking at the source of the light. If Jacob is harsh and will not admit when he is wrong, the lantern has not made him holy. If Samuel loves his family and humbly asks forgiveness, the electric light has not made him worldly.

The same truth applies to transportation and other tools. A buggy does not create humility, and a car does not create pride. Levi may drive a buggy while lying in business and refusing to forgive. Daniel may drive a car while telling the truth, remaining sober, and following Christ. The fruit of their lives tells us more than what is in the driveway.

Personal Conviction Is Not God's Command

John decides that a certain device would bring too much temptation into his home, so he chooses not to own it. That may be a wise and godly choice. But if John looks down on every Christian who owns that device, he has turned personal wisdom into a judgment against others.

Romans 14:4

“Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.”

This does not apply to actions that Scripture clearly calls sin. We have no liberty to lie, steal, commit adultery, get drunk, or live in hatred. But when the Bible has not condemned an object, we should be careful not to speak as though God has condemned it.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the use of a phone more important than simply owning a phone?
2. What signs show that a technology or activity is beginning to control someone?
3. How can a personal limit protect a person without becoming a rule for everyone?
4. Is there a tool or activity you need to limit or remove so you can follow Christ more faithfully?

Section 3: Use Christian Liberty to Honor Christ

Eli studies the Bible and learns that some things he was told were sinful are not called sinful in Scripture. He begins driving a car, using electricity, and wearing store bought clothes. Soon he decides that every restriction must be wrong. He drinks heavily, spends hours on entertainment, looks at sinful material, and says, “I am under grace now.”

Eli has confused freedom from human rules with freedom to please himself. Biblical grace does not lead us into another kind of bondage. It teaches us to turn away from sin and live for God.

Grace Teaches Holy Living

Titus 2:11-12

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”

Grace does not teach careless living. It teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Christian liberty frees us from trying to earn righteousness through human rules. It does not free us to become slaves to lust, drunkenness, greed, pride, or entertainment.

Lawful Does Not Always Mean Helpful

1 Corinthians 10:23

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.”

A mature Christian asks more than, “Am I allowed to do this?” He also asks, “Will this help me follow Christ? Could it control me? Will it help or harm my family? Could it lead someone else toward sin? Can I do it for the glory of God?” Something may be allowed and still be unwise.

Two Homes

The Miller family lives very simply. They use lanterns, travel by buggy, and make most of their clothing. Yet their home is filled with anger, gossip, harsh words, and hidden sin. The Yoder family uses electricity and owns a vehicle. In their home, the parents pray together, apologize when wrong, teach Scripture, speak with kindness, and use technology carefully.

Which home is more pleasing to God? The answer is not found in the driveway or electric wires. It is found in whether Jesus Christ rules the hearts of the people inside. The goal is not to prove how plain we are or how free we are. The goal is to honor Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. What does God's grace teach a believer to deny and how does it teach him to live?
2. Why should a Christian ask whether a choice is helpful instead of only asking whether it is allowed?
3. What would show that Jesus Christ is ruling a home, no matter which tools the family owns?
4. If every church rule disappeared, would love for Christ still lead you toward a holy life?