



From Dr. Ryrie's Thoughts

What is worldliness? Many think it is doing or not doing certain things (usually they have a list of those things!) A definition of "world" needs three parts. First, the word world or cosmos means order, not disorder. It is translated "adorn" in 1 Peter 3:3 and 5.

The words "cosmetic" and "cosmetology" are built on the word cosmos and mean to adorn, put in order. Second, our definition must recognize that Satan is the ruler of this world (John 12:31). So far our definition states that the world is that orderly system ruled Satan. Third, we need some specific characteristic of that system. A list would be endless, so we need a umbrella characteristic.

Here is my suggestion the world is characterized by leaving God out. So a definition is: the world is characterized by leaving God out. So a definition is: the world is that orderly system ruled by Satan that leaves God out. We can leave Him out of good things, bad things, things that are neither good nor bad or which can become good or bad. They just leave God out.

So you can test if something activity, thought, goal, etc. is worldly by asking, Does it leave God out? What is the opposite of worldliness? It is godliness. "Do not love the world" ("1 John 2:16).