

Identifying Eternal Values

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I. Introduction.

A. We are called to live in light of eternity. (I Corinthians 4:18)

B. Conflict is the basic issue of mankind.

II. The cause of conflict.

A. Satan came along and said that creation was eternal. (Genesis 1; 3; 5)

B. The world is filled with conflict because God says the nature of ultimate reality is spiritual when Satan says it is material. (John 4:24; Matthew 24)

C. Material reality will pass away. (Matthew 4:3, Philippians 3:18-19)

D. The bottom line of your life is either that ultimate reality is spiritual or material.

III. Five proper attitudes toward the material world.

A. All matter is good. (Genesis 1, Philippians 2:5, John 1, Romans 14:14)

B. All material things have a proper use. (Genesis 1:27-28, I Corinthians 6:13, II Corinthians 10, John 14, Colossians 1:16-17)

C. We are accountable to God with what we do. We are to be good stewards of material. (Luke 12)

D. Some day everything on the earth will burn. (II Peter 3:9)

1. If we perish, it is because we want to perish.

2. All must make a personal decision to repent.

3. Do not invest too much in the material because it will all burn.

E. Since all material will burn, only people and the Word of God are eternal. We must give our lives to what will last. (Luke 15:22-23, John 11:25-26, I Peter 1:25)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to make a choice regarding the basis of ultimate reality?

2. What are some negative effects of the material entrenched life?

3. Which attitude towards material did you find most surprising or helpful? Explain.
