



An Introduction and Invitation

Our focus and phrase for 2023: _____.

Our Verse for the Year: Jesus answered, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me.”*

John 14:6 (NCV)

- Everyone follows a _____ and it is leading you _____.

Three Ways to Choose:

- The ways of the _____.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)

1. *Lust of the flesh:* wanting to please our sinful _____.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)

2. *Lust of the eyes:* wanting the sinful things _____.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have...

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

3. *Pride of life:* not wanting, thanking, or acknowledging _____.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:21 (NIV)

- The ways of _____.

“You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, ‘These people say they honor me, but their hearts are far away. Their worship is worthless, for they teach their man-made laws instead of those from God.’”

Matthew 15:7-9 (TLB)

- The ways of _____.

Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image. Instead, be transformed from the inside out by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete.

Romans 12:2 (VOICE)

The goal of this spiritual journey is to be _____, _____, and _____ into the image of Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. As you look back to 2022, what practices have helped you to connect with Jesus?
2. Looking forward to 2023, how can you make space for deeper connections with Jesus and his church?
3. What are you hopeful for this year?

Recommended Resources

- *TheWaysofJesus.com*
- *Thriving in Babylon*, by Larry Osborne
- *The Me I Want to Be*, by John Ortberg
- *The Deeply Formed Life*, by Rich Villodas
- *The Jesus Way*, by Eugene H. Peterson

NCV (New Century Version)

NIV (New International Version)

TLB (Living Bible)

VOICE (The Voice)

An Introduction and Invitation - **FILL COPY**

Our focus and phrase for 2023: THE WAYS OF JESUS.

Our Verse for the Year: Jesus answered, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me.”

John 14:6 (NCV)

- Everyone follows a WAY, and it is leading you SOMEWHERE.

Three Ways to Choose:

- The ways of the WORLD.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)

1. *Lust of the flesh:* wanting to please our sinful PHYSICAL DESIRES.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)

2. *Lust of the eyes:* wanting the sinful things WE SEE.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have...

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

3. *Pride of life:* not wanting, thanking, or acknowledging GOD.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:21 (NIV)

- The ways of RELIGION.

“You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, ‘These people say they honor me, but their hearts are far away. Their worship is worthless, for they teach their man-made laws instead of those from God.’”

Matthew 15:7-9 (TLB)

- The ways of JESUS.

Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image. Instead, be transformed from the inside out by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete.

Romans 12:2 (VOICE)

The goal of this spiritual journey is to be FORMED, TRANSFORMED, and CONFORMED into the image of Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. As you look back to 2022, what practices have helped you to connect with Jesus?
2. Looking forward to 2023, how can you make space for deeper connections with Jesus and his church?
3. What are you hopeful for this year?

Recommended Resources

- *TheWaysofJesus.com*
- *Thriving in Babylon*, by Larry Osborne
- *The Me I Want to Be*, by John Ortberg
- *The Deeply Formed Life*, by Rich Villodas
- *The Jesus Way*, by Eugene H. Peterson

NCV (New Century Version)

NIV (New International Version)

TLB (Living Bible)

VOICE (The Voice)