

So That You May Know

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:1-5**

Chapter 25- Overcoming the World

223 Overcoming the World- Part 7

WAOY Friday-Monday 07/18-21/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we're going to continue to look at what John meant when he said, "Whoever is born of God overcomes the world". So, let's read **1John 5:1- 5** again together:

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Now on the last broadcast we were looking very closely here at verse 4 and we were discussing just how we are to overcome the world and I want to look again at just what John said here- so let's read verse 4 again together:

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

So, John is saying here that those who are born of God or those who are saved- overcome the world. So last time we were looking at just what the "world" actually is and just how we overcome it and I want to explore that a little deeper today.

Now we have already found out that John was *not* talking about the dirt or the mountains or rivers of this earth because God made all of those things and whatever God made is very good. So, John is talking about the *system* of this fallen world that is dominated by unregenerate man and that operates in hostile opposition to God and the Word of God.

And so, John says here that those who are saved overcome that system by and through the faith that caused them to be saved to begin with.

Now on the last broadcast we saw that in order to overcome the world- we must not love the world and I want to refer back to what John taught about that in **1John 2:15-17**- so let's read that passage again together:

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Now on the last broadcast- we saw that loving the world is what is called, "worldliness" and John says here that if anyone loves the world or if anyone has affection or desire toward the system of this fallen world- then the Love of the father is not in him- meaning that that person is not saved.

So, worldliness is loving what is passing away more or even to the same extent that you love God and John says here that you cannot do that and be saved.

And on the last broadcast we explored how that things of this world that are passing away compete with and fight against our love that is reserved solely and only for God and when that happens- we are loving the world and we are being overcome by the world. So, overcoming the world is living in this sinful world and yet separated from it in the sense that we do not love those things that are passing away- we love God.

So, if God would be merciful to us that He may open our eyes and we can see and know and identify those things which *are* rivals in our lives for our affections which rightly belong only to God- we would be so

blessed. So, I encourage all of us to earnestly pray that God will open our hearts and minds and eyes so that we may see and fix our eyes on that competition so we may learn the name of that rival.

Friends, we as Christians face temptations all the time and the Bible says that we are greatly helped; we are strengthened *in* our resistance to loving the world- *if* we know what those temptations are; if we can name them; and then self-consciously oppose them.

We need to care, about whether or not we are presenting a corporate witness that is not worldly- that has stopped loving the world and John tells us why this should be the case; why we all should stop loving the world- he tells us here that we should stop loving the world because the love of the world is mutually exclusive with the Love of the Father- that these two loves are in competition with each other for our affections and our time and our loyalty and our devotion. Look with me at the second half of verse 15:

... If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Now “**anyone**” is you and me. There are no allowances made here- no exceptions. No human born of woman is excluded from being “**anyone**”. So do not make the mistake, dear friends, of saying that this does not apply to you because you are saved. John wrote this verse and this passage, yea this entire Epistle only to those who are saved.

Now this isn't true unless it *is* true. We are not guilty of loving the world- unless we *do*, in fact, love the world. And this is important to all of us because if anyone; if you; if I; if anyone does in fact love the world- the Bible says that Love of the Father is not in him.

Now I can imagine how uncomfortable preaching like this makes *you* feel because I know all too well how uncomfortable this makes *me* feel. And if I was the one who said it- you would be right to quickly ignore it. If the President of the United States or the Queen of England had said this- you could rightly argue with them. But it was God Who said, “**Do not love the world**”. And so, we must take heed that as the sheep of His pasture, we do not ignore what God has said and we must take heed that as the people of God that we do not argue with what God has said or whitewash it or bypass it; or wave our hand and say, “*This doesn't apply to me*”, because it *does* apply to you and it *does* apply to me.

You see, you and I, as believers, are not to brush off the Words of God, but we are to squarely face what God has said and be confronted with what God has said and to bow before what God has said.

John tells us here that a *persistence* of this kind of “world love” proves beyond any doubt that God is *not* in our hearts- because it is impossible for two loves to co-exist in the same vessel at the same time- which was exactly what John had heard himself from Jesus.

The Bible teaches us from cover to cover that the human soul *cannot* love God and the world at the same time. It will *always* choose one over the other because God consciously made the soul to *exclusively* love and worship and serve only one object at a time. Any attempt by anyone at loving two things or worshipping two things or serving two things at the same time will always result in a schizophrenic life; a diseased life; a fruitless life; and a wasted life.

No, we must choose; we must decide; we must *consciously* **abandon** one love for the other. Either you must abandon the world and love God, or you must abandon God and love the world. But you cannot do both.

And the kicker is that you will choose whichever one is the more *valuable* to you. You *choose* to love the world because you *value* the world more than you value God. Or you *choose* the Love of the Father because you *value* His love more than the love for the world.

In every *act* of your life; every *word* out of your mouth; every *thought* of your mind- you are showing- you are proving- who you value and who you love. So, I ask you, Do you love the world?

And since this is true- it is therefore dangerous for any believer to listen to or to subscribe to the theology of the “Word of Faith Movement” which consciously and consistently says that you *can* have both the world and God and that you *can* serve both God and money and that you *can* have it all now *and* have it all in Heaven in direct contradiction to the Word of God.

Listen, it is impossible for you to overcome what you love because if you love something- you will not even want to overcome it and if you are overcoming something- you certainly would not love it. So, if you love the world- you are not overcoming the world and if you are overcoming the world as John said that saved people do- then by default that means that you will not and you cannot love the world.

So please examine what theology is feeding you- because you *cannot* live contrary to what you believe. Contrary to popular opinion- your life doesn't dictate what you believe- but what you believe dictates how you will live your life. So, if your theology is wrong; if what you believe is unbiblical; if it is in contradiction to what God has said- your life will be too.

Imagine the confusion in your life if, for example, you had two different bosses at work- each telling you to do something different; or two different Presidents of the United States- each with a different view of the war; or two different surgeons operating on your heart- each with different approaches to the operation.

Nothing comes out of a situation of divided love beside grief and frustration and anger and bitterness and failure.

Beloved, it is physically impossible to walk north at the same time that you are walking south. It is impossible to go up in the elevator at the same time that you are going down; it is impossible to wake up and go to sleep at the same time. It isn't hard- it is impossible.

And likewise, it is impossible to love God and to love the world that is opposed to God at the same time. I didn't say that- God did. And any effort to love both or to follow both or to serve both will *always* bring about defeat and pain and misery and frustration and sorrow.

If you have ever at one time in your life ever made the claim that you are a Christian- then ask yourself this morning about your own loves. The Apostle Paul said in **2Corinthians 13:5a**:

Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you — unless indeed you fail the test?

So, I beg you, dear friends, to find that which chiefly orders your life; that which chiefly guides you; that which chiefly motivates you; that which chiefly compels you and that which you chiefly love and you will find what you chiefly worship- and if it is not God- it is sin.

You cannot have God as the chief ultimate end of this life and have the world as your ultimate end at the same time. You have to choose one or the other.

Don't you find it interesting that the demands of the world are in competition with the demands of God? Have you noticed that the world

demands that you put *it* first- while God demands that you submit all to Him?

The world commands that you continuously abandon yourself in *its* concerns- while God cautions us to use the world very carefully; and to hold it lightly.

The world calls us to get our satisfaction from its god- while the one true God calls all men to glory in the Cross of Jesus Christ and to be satisfied in Him and His Love.

The world calls you to go easy on yourself- that you deserve a break today; that you deserve that new 52" TV; or that new car or that new house- and that if only you could have more stuff or more money- you would be satisfied and fulfilled and happy and that your own self-fulfillment is the highest and most noble goal in this life- while Christ calls you to dread the least sin more than you fear the greatest suffering.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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