

So That You May Know

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 9- Love Not the World

67. Part 2

WAOY Friday/Monday 08/10-13/07; WOSM Tuesday 01/03/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about not loving this present world. So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2:15-17** 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 we are studying what John meant when he commands us here to not love the world or the things in the world. And on the last broadcast- we were going over the four aspects of what John is saying here in verse 15.

1. **Love not**

I told you last time that the way that this Greek phrase, "**Love not**" is constructed here in verse 15 shows us that this is what is called an "imperative" command. This phrase, "**Love not**" is a command by the Creator and Owner of the universe to every single soul who has been saved for us to *not* love the world nor the things that are in the world.

2. **Love**

Love is the very foundation of Christianity. Unlike Islam, for

example, that grows because it is based in fear and force and hate and coercion- Christianity is a religion of love. All throughout Scripture we are told to love many, many things. For example, in **Deuteronomy 6:5** we are told to:

... love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 10:19 tells us to “Love ... the stranger”. **Psalms 5:11** tells us to love God’s Name. **Psalms 40:16** tells us to love Salvation. **Psalms 119:97** tells us to love Gods’ Word and Law. **Psalms 119:119** tells us to love God’s testimonies. **Psalms 119:127** tells us to love God’s Commandments. **Psalms 119:159** tells us to love God’s precepts. **Proverbs 4:6** tells us to love wisdom. **Proverbs 5:19** tells us to love the instruction of the wise. **Isaiah 61:8** tells us to love judgment. **Jeremiah 5:31** tells us that unsaved and lukewarm and backslid people love lies and deception. **Amos 5:15** tells us to love good. **Micah 6:8** tells us to love mercy. **Zechariah 6:8** tells us to love truth and peace.

Matthew 5:44 tells us to love our enemies. **Matthew 5:46** tells us that if we only love those who love us then we are no different than the heathen and we will have no reward. **Matthew 19:19** tells us to love our neighbors to the same extent that we love ourselves. **Matthew 24:12** says that because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold. **John 8:42** says that if we are of God, we will love Jesus. **John 10:17** says that God the Father loves Jesus more than He loves anyone else. **John 13:34** tells us to love one another. **John 13:35** says that we will be known as disciples of Jesus if we have loved one toward another. **John 14:15** says that if we love Jesus, we will obey Him. **John 14:23** says that if a man loves Jesus, then that man will keep the words of Jesus.

Romans 5:5 says that hope is not shameful because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts. **Romans 5:8** says that God’s Love is commended toward us. **Romans 8:8** says that all things work together for good to them who love God to them who are the called according to His purpose. **Romans 8:35** says that nothing can separate saved people from the love of God. **Romans 12:9** says that love is without dissimulation. **Romans 13:8** says that as believers we are not to owe any man anything, but to love one another. **Romans 13:10** says that love works no ill to our neighbor, but that love is the fulfillment of the Law.

2Corinthians 2:8 tells us to confirm our love to God. **2Corinthians 5:14** tells us that the love of God constrains us. **Galatians 5:6** tells us that circumcision doesn't help us at all but faith which works by love. **Galatians 5:13** tells us that by love we are to serve one another. **Galatians 5:22** tells us that one of the fruit of the Spirit is love. **Ephesians 1:4** tells us that we are to be holy and without blame before God in love. **Ephesians 1:15** says that we are to love all the saints. **Ephesians 3:17** says that we are to be rooted and grounded in Christ by love. **Ephesians 3:19** says that we are to know the love of God. **Ephesians 4:15** says that we are to speak truth in love. **Ephesians 4:16** says that the entire Body of Jesus Christ edifies itself in love. **Ephesians 5:2** says that we are to walk in love. **Ephesians 5:25** says that we are to love our wives to the same extent that Christ loved the Church. **Ephesians 5:28** says that we are to love our wives to the same extent that we love our own bodies. **Ephesians 6:23** says that true, genuine faith goes along with love. **Philippians 1:9** says that our love is supposed to abound. **Philippians 2:1** says that love brings forth comfort and consolation. **Colossians 2:2** says that we are to be knit together in love.

1Timothy 6:10 says that the love of money is the root of all evil. **1Timothy 6:11** says that love follows after righteousness. **2Timothy 4:8** says that we are to love the second coming of the Lord. **Titus 2:4** says that wives are to love their husbands. **1Peter 2:17** says that we are to love the brotherhood. And on and on.

John says that God is love and therefore all who are of God will have this godly love in them. And we must remember that Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; does not vaunt itself; and is never puffed up. The Bible says that love does not behave unseemly; does not seek to be recognized; is not easily provoked; and does not think evil.

Love does not rejoice in iniquity- but true love rejoices only in the Truth. Love bears all things; believes all things; hopes all things; endures all things- because true, genuine, godly love never fails.

But as it is true that we are commanded in Scripture to love many things- we are also commanded by that same Scripture not to love several things.

For example, We are not to love evil. We are not to love iniquity. We are not to love sin. We are not to love deception and we are not to love wickedness.

Matthew 6:24 says for example that it is impossible for us to love both

God and money. And here in **1John 2:15** the Holy Spirit gave John these inspired words-

Do not love the world nor the things in the world....

Now this term “love” as used here has to do with *setting your affections on it; or to offer steady devotion to it.*

So, John is teaching here that true Christians do not *habitually* and *persistently* love the world or the things of the world- although we *do* periodically *flirt* with them- unfortunately. So, John commands us to be on guard; to watch; to judge; and to be sober about this. John wants believers to clearly understand the intents of our own hearts because it is so easy to fall into love with the world and to love the things of the world.

So, if by these broadcasts- you see that you are loving the world or that you are actively loving the things of this world- then please stop immediately and beg God for forgiveness.

Now some people think that I make too much of these things. They reason to themselves, “*Well, nobody’s perfect, and I’m doing the best that I know how- so I’m just fine. There’s no sense in getting all worked up about these things.*” I can’t even begin to tell you how many times I have heard that over the years.

But I respectfully disagree. I do not believe that we should be able to live sinfully and not be convicted about it. I do not believe that it is okay with God that we love the world. If it is –why did John say that it wasn’t. I believe that what the Bible says is real important and when people say that it isn’t real important- I don’t see that as a sign that they are mature in their walk with God- I see that as nothing more than compromise with Truth and an excuse to sin without remorse.

People say, “*Well I don’t believe that God wants me to die over these things*”. Well, nobody said anything about dying, beloved. John is not telling us to die in these verses- he is showing us how to really live. But if these Words are inspired and if they are infallible and if they are inerrant and if they are authoritative and if they came right out of the very Heart and Mind and Mouth of Almighty God- don’t you think that God expects us to obey them?

I mean God is not like some old woman shaking her finger at young rebels to quiet down- no, God deserves our obedience. He is

entitled to our submission. God has earned that, and it is nothing short of high treason for us to read and to know what God expects out of us and then whitewash it or just ignore it or just slough it off.

This is the flippant and cavalier attitude that people have today about sin in general. Most people look at sin as something that would be better if they didn't do it- but no big deal. And most people today only look at sin as being wrong because sin affects them in some negative way.

But that is not what the Bible teaches, beloved. The Bible says that sin is a real big deal to God. In fact, sin is the single most important subject that any human being on earth can discuss. Every time we sin- we dishonor God. Every time we sin- we prove that we do not love Jesus. Every time we sin- we reject what God has said. If that doesn't bother you- then your heart is as hard as stone.

Downplaying sin over the last 100 years has not produced better Christians, beloved. Now I understand that preaching like I do sets me at odds with many of the popular preachers of our day- and really and truly- that is just fine by me because it also puts me in real good company with men of old who taught and preached the Word with fire and fear. I preach about sin because the Bible talks about sin. I don't have any other agenda here. Jesus and Paul and Moses and John talked about sin a whole more than they talked about anything else. There is more in the Bible about what *not* to do than there is about what to do. There is more in the Bible about hell than there is about heaven. There is more "thou shalt nots" than there is "thou shalt".

I didn't write this Book, beloved. I had nothing to do with what is in it. God never even consulted with me when He inspired the writers. Can you believe that God never even gave me a phone call and told me what He was going to put in this Book? I mean as nice a guy as I am and not even a phone call? Sin is described in gigantic detail in every single Book of the Bible. It is always called "bad". It is always taught as being wrong. It is never excused. It is never whitewashed, and it is never pushed aside. It is right there in your face in plain sight for every single human being in the world to come to grips with the fact that we are horribly wicked people and God is gloriously wonderful and holy.

And while it is true that I had no part in writing the Bible- I am so blessed to have a small part in preaching it and proclaiming it and defending it and believing it and loving it. And God says that I better

preach it right and I better preach all of it and I better not compromise with any of it. I'm not supposed to be ashamed of any of it- but I am supposed to love and believe and teach the easy and the soft parts and I am supposed to love and believe and preach the hard parts- because it all came out of God's Mouth.

We've got to remember, beloved that it is more important to God that we are holy than it is to Him that we are temporarily happy. Now God is not against happiness, but if you have to choose- choose holy. Listen to me- it is more important to God that you stop lying than it is that you get a new car. Can God bless you with a new car- absolutely- but lying is a bigger problem than walking.

It is more important to God that a man stop feeding on pornography and begin to love his wife than it is that he get a new house or a raise on the job and it is more important to God that we reject sin than He is that we are healed. Of course, God can and does heal sick bodies- thank God for that- but I'm talking about priorities here. You can go to heaven sick- millions of Christians have gone to Heaven after having been sick- but lost people cannot go to Heaven.

If you don't think that God looks at sin very seriously, I invite you to look at Calvary. Look at the Blood soaked Cross and then tell me that sin is no big deal. Literally millions of animals were slaughtered in the Old Testament, but God's greatest rejection of sin was when sinful men took God's greatest Gift and He was beaten to a bloody pulp and then hung on a tree all because sin is a real big deal to God.

So, take what John teaches here real seriously, beloved and do not love the world or the things in the world.

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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