

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 9- Love Not the World

72. Part 7

WAOY Tuesday 08/21/07; WOSM Tuesday 01/10/23

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 called by God's Word here in these passages to examine and consider worldliness. We cannot escape this issue and must not shirk from it. In these three verses are the answers to three very important questions:

- 1. What Do You Love?**
- 2. Where Does Your Love Come From?**
- 3. Where is Your Love Taking You?**

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the first question- What do you love? And I ended that broadcast by telling you that the Bible teaches from cover to cover that the human soul *cannot* love God and love 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; 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 I also said that you and I will choose whichever one is the more *valuable* to you. You will choose to love the world because you value the world more than you value God. Or you will choose the love of the Father because you value His love more than the love for the world. So, in every act of your life; every word out of your mouth; every thought of your mind- you are showing Who you value and who you love.

And since this is true- it is therefore dangerous for any believer to listen to or to believe 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 both now *and* have both in Heaven- which is in direct contradiction to the Word of God.

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 war; or two different surgeons operating on your heart- each with different approaches to the operation. We must come to grips with the fact that 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.

And likewise, it is impossible to love God and to love the world that is opposed to God at the same time. And I'm not the one who said it was impossible- Jesus Christ said it was impossible. The Apostle John said that it was impossible. 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.

So, if you have ever at one time in your life ever made the claim that you are a Christian- then ask yourself about your own loves and do what **2Corinthians 13:5a** says and:

Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!...

Do not make the mistake, Christian man, to say that you are a Christian simply because you prayed a prayer at one time in your life. Do not make the mistake, Christian woman, to say that you are a Christian based upon the fact that you were baptized on a certain date. But rather, let us all say that we are Christians; that we belong to Jesus because we no longer love the world neither the things in the world- but that we have willfully and gladly *forsaken* the world and that we now love and serve and follow Jesus Christ alone. Peter said in **2Peter 1:10a**:

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you ...

Friend, 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 that thing 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 do not compliment the demands that God places on your life- but have you noticed that all that the world demands from you is in direct *competition* with the demands of God? Have you noticed that the world demands that you put *it* first- while God demands that you to 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 it- while the one true God calls all men to glory in the Cross of 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 75" TV; or that new car or that new house or that new husband- and that if only you could have more stuff or more money- you would be satisfied and fulfilled and happy and that your self- fulfillment is the highest and most noble goal in this life-

while Christ calls you to dread the least sin more than the greatest suffering. Notice how contrary and inconsistent these two masters are in their commands.

Now, I know that this sounds unpatriotic- especially at a time of war- but this is why as Christians, we *cannot* give our ultimate allegiance to our country. Our ultimate allegiance belongs to God alone. Many Christians throughout history have lost their lives over this very issue and it may well be that we may lose our as well.

If the current trend of public policy which vilifies Christian morality continues, the day may come when it will, in effect, be against the law in the United States to be a practicing Christian and some of us may live to see the Government of this country- like the governments of so many other countries before us deciding that in order to have a cohesive pluralistic society that it will be against the law to teach or even believe unpopular parts of the Bible.

The tragic irony is that a nation that was established on the Word of God would ever sink to such a position. May it never be. But if it does come to that- let us be crystal clear about where we stand. We will value:

- Our Savior over our society
- Our God over our government
- Our Christ over our country

Beloved, the love of this world is typified by the elevation of “self” which is entirely *incompatible* with loving and serving God. Listen to what the world preaches: “Self- help; self-ish-ness; self- esteem; self- fulfillment”. Do you not hear in every word, “Self, self, self”? But the Love of the Father is all about the complete *abandonment* of “self” to the exaltation of Jesus Christ and doing all to the Glory of God alone through denying ourselves; taking up our cross; and following Jesus.

How can we ever think that we are being consistent when we fill our minds and hearts with teachings and philosophies that promote “self” and then say that we are following the Christ of Gethsemane- Who laid down everything- including his Own Will- yea, including His Own Life so that God’s Will could be done?

Brothers and sisters, a world lover is, by definition, an idolater, a spiritual adulterer and therefore he is *incapable* of loving and serving

and following Jesus Christ.

So, to read the Bible as Truth- we must come to the conclusion that love for the world in the sense that John says it here and for God at the same time is inconsistent and therefore impossible. So I ask you in fear and trembling- *“Do you love the world?”*

Which love is the most basic in your life? The love of the world or the Love of the Father. Which love is the most fundamentally basic- not in what we say here in Church on Sunday- but which love is the most basic in the way in which we live our daily lives: the love of world or the Love of the Father?

Some say that they can have both. Some say that they can have all the benefits of the world and all that it has to offer, and they can also- at the same time- have the Love of the Father in their hearts.

Christian friends, let me say to those of you who think this way- you are self-deceived. Make no mistake about this- Christ will force every soul on earth to choose with whom to lay his affections- the world or the Father.

Billy Sunday, the 19th Century Evangelist, once said,

You might as well talk about a ‘heavenly devil’ as talk about a ‘worldly Christian.’”

And as the Psalmist said in **Psalms 97:10a**

Hate evil, you who love the Lord...

Now the good news in all of this is that if you are a Christian, then you truly *do* love God and Praise God for that! Have you considered what it means in your life that you have come to know the one true living God; that you have come to know His forgiveness for all your sins; that you have come to experience something of the Father’s Love for you?

Then I encourage you to drink in what we have to offer here in this Church. Everything that we do here is specifically designed so that the Love of the Father will increase in your life while at the same time the love of the world will decrease. Get involved in one or more of the many Bible Studies that we offer here; Come and pray with us on Wednesday Evenings; Engage yourself in the Bible Reading Plan; Take

up the Puritan Reading Challenge; go out during the week and sow the seed of the Gospel into the hearts of others; help us reach out to the local High Schools and the Jails and the Nursing Homes this year; go with us to the Hospitals and pray for the sick; help us to grow in Grace and to hate sin and to love the Father and to not love this world.

Now as you read this passage, please do not make the mistake of thinking that John is calling us all to be monks in a monastery- he is not. The “world” that we are not to love here is the *system* of those creatures- men and demons- who oppose God- and is *not* the material Creation itself. *That* world- the world that God made- is very good. But to love the *other* world- the world system that opposes God- brings us into submission to the lusts of that world which always leads us into sin.

Paul tells us in **1Corinthians** that we are to *use* the world- just don’t be *captured* by it. And if we do that, then we can learn the secret of true contentment that Paul said that he had in every situation.

Jesus prayed in **John 17** that although we are *in* the world that we would not be taken captive *by* it- that we are not to be in bondage to it. That as Christians, we are not to be known for our selfishness; nor our indifference; but by active use of this world- for God’s glory **alone**.

My dear friends, we are to love God first and foremost and to reflect that in our daily lives; in what we agree to do; in what we shun; in what we applaud; what we support; in how we speak and how we conduct our finances; and in all of life.

Even in our covenanting to disciplining ourselves in matters of unrepentant sin- whether that unrepentant sin is the worldliness of non- attendance; or of lying; or of adultery. So let us all resign ourselves to this fact: Love for; ultimate regard for God will not co-exist with love for the world that is opposed to Him.

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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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.