

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-21-10 AM NOTES

"DON'T LOVE THE WORLD"

1 JOHN 2:15-17

#1 in Series, "Resisting the Lure of the World"

John 17:14-16 (NKJV) "14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

Galatians 1:4 (KJV) "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."

Galatians 6:14 (NKJV) "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

Romans 12:2 (NIV) "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."

"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church...Put your finger on any prosperous page of the church's history, and I will find a little marginal note reading thus: 'In this age men could readily see where the church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the church and the world were joined in marriage with one another. The more the church is distinct from the world in her acts and in her maxims, the more true is her testimony for Christ, and the more potent is her witness against sin."

—Charles Spurgeon

I. The Command Concerning the World (v. 15)

A. What Is the World?

Acts 17:24a (NKJV) "God, who made the world and everything in it..."

John 3:16 (NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

"Clearly the very text and the whole teaching of the Bible shows that it must mean the organization and the mind and the outlook of mankind as it ignores God and does not recognize Him and as it lives a life independent of Him, a life that is based upon this world and this life only. It means the outlook that has rebelled against God and turned its back upon Him. It means, in other words, the typical kind of life that is being lived by the average person today, who has no thought of God, but thinks only of this world and life, who thinks in terms of time and is governed by certain instincts and desires. It is the whole outlook upon life that is exclusive of God."

—Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"The world we're not to love is *the organized system of human civilization that is actively hostile to God and alienated from God*. The world God forbids us to love is the fallen world. Humanity at enmity with God. A world of arrogant, self sufficient people seeking to exist apart from God and living in opposition to God. It is a world richly deserving of the righteous wrath of a holy God. Dead set against the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the world we're forbidden to love."

—C. J. Mahaney

"The world and its things which John warned his readers not to love, is the invisible, spiritual system of evil. It is the *kosmos* ('world order,' 'realm of existence,' 'way of life') governed by Satan; as Paul reminded the Ephesians, 'You formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience' (Eph. 2:2)."

—John MacArthur

The world is an organized system of ideas and values that is energized by Satan and leaves out God and His Word.

B. How Does One Love the World?

Revelation 4:11 (KJV) "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Matthew 6:20 (NKJV) "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Acts 2:45 (NKJV) "and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."

Acts 4:34-35 (NKJV) "³⁴ Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, ³⁵ and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need."

C. What Does a Love for the World Reveal?

"The kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God are inherently incompatible (cf. 4:5-6; 5:4-5; John 15:19; Gal. 6:14). The two are mutually exclusive and opposed to one another. They are antithetical, and cannot peacefully coexist. True Christians therefore will not be characterized by a habitual love for the world, nor will worldly people demonstrate a genuine affection for the gospel and its Lord (John 3:20; Acts 7:51; 13:8-10; 17:5, 13; Rom. 8:7; Col. 1:21; 1 Thess. 2:14-16)."

—John MacArthur

II. The Content of the World (v. 16)

A. The Lust of the Flesh (v. 16a)

"Lust, in other words, means that instead of controlling our desires and using them as we ought to, we are controlled by them; they master us and they control us. There are certain desires in us that are perfectly legitimate; they have been given by God. Yes, but if we are governed and controlled by them and our whole outlook upon life is circumscribed by these things, then we are guilty of lust; that is the meaning of the word."

—Martyn Lloyd-Jones

B. The Lust of the Eyes (v. 16b)

Psalms 101:3 (ESV) "I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me."

C. The Pride of Life (v. 16c)

Genesis 3:6 (NKJV) "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."

III. The Conclusion of the World (v. 17)

1 Corinthians 7:31b (ESV) "For the present form of this world is passing away."

Revelation 11:15b (NKJV) "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Colossians 3:2 (NKJV) "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

"When someone sets his affection upon the cross and the love of Christ, he crucifies the world as a dead and undesirable thing. The baits of sin lose their attraction and disappear. Fill your affections with the cross of Christ and you will find no room for sin."

—John Owen