

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 9- Love Not the World

70. Part 5

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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 on the last broadcast, we began to see just how important the issue of worldliness really is. John says here that worldliness was a serious problem and that if we love the world- then the love of the Father is not in us. John is saying here that the love of the Father is not in us at all if we love the world or the things in the world, which is just another way of John saying that if we love the world- we are not saved.

So, what this passage really is- is John's third test of what true Salvation is all about. If you remember, as we studied Chapter 1, that John gave us two other tests to determine who is and who is not genuinely born from above.

In **1John 1:6**, the Apostle gave us the first test of Salvation when he said:

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

And John went into detail about this issue in **1John 2:3&4**, when he said:

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

So, John lays the gauntlet down over the first principle of Salvation- those who are genuinely saved will keep God's commandments as a normal course of their daily lives while those who walk contrary to God's commandments as a normal course of their daily lives are obviously still lost.

Then John moved to the second test of Salvation which was loving the brethren. Let's read **1John 2:9-11**:

9 The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

So, John is now adding this second test to the first one and is saying here that part and parcel to being saved is loving all of those who are also saved. Now I went over those first two tests in great detail in earlier broadcasts- so I won't repeat that today- but the point that I am making here is that now that we come to verses 15-17 of Chapter 2- John is adding the third test to these other two tests and is now saying that in addition to keeping God's commandments and in addition to loving the brethren- all of those who have been regenerated by the Power of the Spirit and washed in the Blood of the Lamb will also love not the world.

So here John is equating the keeping of God's commandments and the loving of all the brethren and not loving the world with being saved and he is also equating walking in darkness and doing not the truth

and having not the truth in you and being blind and loving the world with being lost.

So since loving the world is something that lost people do and not loving the world is something that saved people do- then we need to define what John was saying so that we all can make sure that we are doing what God desires of us.

And in this discussion, I am going to treat worldliness as being evil; as being not of God or from God; I am going to look at worldliness as being completely unproductive for believers to be a part of and something to avoid and something that dishonors God and what Christianity is all about. Now over the two thousand years of the Church- there have been many attempts at defining just what John and the other writers meant when they warned us about the curse of worldliness. And I will acknowledge some have added to what John has said and while others have taken away from what John said here through the centuries. So, Lord willing, over the next several broadcasts- as best as I know how- I am going to endeavor to describe for you just exactly what the Apostle John meant and give to you specific examples of what John as referring to when he said, **“Do not love the world”**.

Now first of all- the way that John puts this here in verse 15 is strange. Most of the time when Scripture is written- it tells us what to love- but here, John is telling us not to love something- in this case- the world. Now this phrase was written for us in Greek and was written in a way that proves to us that what John was actually saying here was that he is commanding believers to refrain from loving or to withhold our love from the world. Another way of putting this is to say that John is telling us here to hate the world.

Now many today do not think that hating anything is proper for a Christian to do- but they would be wrong about that. We are commanded in several places in Scripture to hate certain things precisely because we are believers, and we are also told in inspired Scripture that God Himself hates certain things. For example- let's read **Psalms 119:104:**

From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

And let's also read **Psalms 119:113:**

I hate those who are double-minded, But I love Your law.

And **Psalms 119:163:**

I hate and despise falsehood, *But* I love Your law.

Proverbs 6:16-19

16 There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

19 A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

So just based upon these Scriptures alone, we can easily see that God has instructed us as His people to hate nine different things: every false way; vain thoughts; lying; a proud look; hands that shed innocent blood; a heart that devises wicked imaginations; feet that are swift to run to mischief; a false witness; and he that sows discord among believers. Scripture says that we are to actually hate these things.

Then we go to **Proverbs 8:13-** which says that the fear of God is actually defined by us hating five more things:

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.

Isaiah 61:8 tells us that God Himself hates something. So, let's read that verse together:

For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering; And I will faithfully give them their recompense And make an everlasting covenant with them.

The prophet Amos gave this prophetic command to the people of God in **Amos 5:15:**

Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the Lord God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

And the prophet Zechariah spoke in God's stead and showed us that God hates certain things. So, let's read **Zechariah 8:17**:

Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,' declares the Lord."

Now lest you think that any of this was abrogated by the New Covenant- Jesus Himself said that we cannot love God and money and that we must choose between them. Let's read **Luke 16:13**:

No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Apostle Paul said that he hated the in that he did in **Romans 7:15**:

For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

And finally, the glorified Jesus applauded the Church in Ephesus because they hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans which deeds Jesus said He also hates. Let's read **The Revelation 2:6**:

Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Now the only thing that we are prohibited from hating in the New Testament is people. We cannot and we must not hate any human being regardless of whether they are a brother or an enemy. So, for us to hate any other human being for any reason at any time would be sin to us today. So while we must love everybody and we must pray for everybody and we must work with everybody and forgive everybody and preach the Gospel to everybody and compel everybody who crosses our path with tears to repent regardless of their condition and regardless of how dirty they may be or how sinful they may be- we are also at the same time to absolutely and resolutely hate all of the intangible and inanimate things that the rest of Scripture tells us specifically to hate. In fact- for us to *not* hate what God says to hate would be sin to us.

Now keep in mind that as we hate what we are supposed to hate and as we love what we are supposed to love- we will struggle with these things precisely because we are imperfect human beings. We love even evil people in the sense that we witness to them and pray for them to be saved and we hate evil things in the sense that we reject them and denounce them and take no part in them.

So, the Apostle John was in no way teaching anything new here in verse 15, but was reiterating all that God had spoken for thousands of years-

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.

So, I ask you today- Do you love the world? Do you love the things that are in the world? Is this present evil world attractive to you? Do you desire to look and act and talk and live and believe according to what the lost world teaches or according to what God says? If you do love the world- then John says that the Love of the Father is not in you.

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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