

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:18-20**

Chapter 30- What We Know 283 What We Know- Part 9

WAOY Thursday 11/20/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we are going to continue to look at the summary of all that we know- based upon this great Epistle of **1John**- so let's read **1John 5:18-20** again together:

18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of the evil one*.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Now we are in the middle of studying how that in these three verses- the Apostle John is giving us a summary of all that he has taught in this great Epistle. And he begins each of these three verses with the phrase, "We know".

In these three verses- John wants us to know three things:

1. That the person who has genuinely been born of God does not dwell continually in sin
2. That those who are saved are truly born of God
3. That the Son of God has come and has given us knowledge of the one true living God.

And on the last broadcast- we were looking at the second Truth that John says that we should know, and I want to continue that today- so let's read **1John 5:19** again together:

We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of the evil one.*

Now we are right in the middle of examining what John meant when he said in this verse that the whole world lies in wickedness- so we are examining what is probably the most common and yet the most unknown sin that exists in our lives today and that sin is the sin of worldliness.

Worldliness is when the love and affection and devotion of our hearts that should only belong to God is stolen from God and placed on something that is temporary and that is passing away. Worldliness is more common today than it has ever been; it is more easily engaged in by believers and due to the fact that there is such bad teaching out there- in many areas- the sin of worldliness is actually being promoted as being a virtue and even a blessing from God. But please listen to what God said about this evil sin by reading **1John 2:15-17:**

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 there are several signs that warn us that we have crossed the line into worldliness. Those signs include always being too busy to study the Bible or to pray for any meaningful length of time; loving money; engaging in covetousness; and believing that more of this world's goods is a sign of God's favor- without a corresponding growth in holiness.

We can measure the degree to which worldliness has overtaken us by honestly examining what we love and what we spend time with because the Bible teaches 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. And 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.

So 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 please understand that 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 this morning- 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* both have it all now *and* have it all in Heaven in direct contradiction to the Word of God.

Any teaching; any theology that says that this is your best life now is in hostile opposition to the Truth of God’s Word. The only people who are living their best life now- on this earth- are those who are going to die and spend eternity in hell. Because as they burn forever in torment- they will look back at this life as being far better than that.

But to those who are saved- this life is not even close to the Glory and the Joy that Heaven will bring. And to even attempt to make this life on this sin cursed world to be Heaven is a waste of time.

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 you’re 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!

Do not make the mistake, Christian man, to think that you are a Christian simply because you believe that a Supreme Being exists or because you prayed a prayer at one time in your life. Do not make the mistake, Christian woman, to think 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 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.

And 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 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 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.

Notice how contrary and inconsistent these two masters are in their commands.

Beloved, the love of this world is typified by attention to "self" which is entirely incompatible to loving God. Listen to what the world preaches: Self-help; selfish-ness; self-esteem; self-actualization; self-fulfillment. Do you not hear in every word, Self, self, self? And the pagan world has *always* been about the deification of Man to the exclusion of God because the lost world has always been and will always be at odds with God in their idolatry.

But sadly, it has also become true that today, even in the Church, much of our preaching and teaching and many of the messages of our songs are for one end: the betterment of ourselves.

But this trend is counterproductive to all that we say that we believe - because the Love of the Father is all about the *abandonment* of "self" to the exaltation of Jesus Christ and doing all to the glory of God alone.

How can we ever think that we are being consistent with Scripture when we fill our minds and hearts with teachings 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, we must understand that a "world lover" is, by

definition an idolater; a spiritual adulterer; and is by definition *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 is 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 have both. Some say that that they can have all the benefits of the unregenerate world- and all that it has to offer *and* that they can also- at the same time- have the Love of the Father in their hearts.

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

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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