

“Love Not The World”
1 John 2:15-17

Introduction:

1. As We Get Back Into:
 - Our Sunday Night Series On:
 - The Great Progress Of Victory:
 - That We Have In Christ:
 - Over The Enemies That:
 - “War Against Our Souls!” (1 Peter 2:11)
2. Tonight:
 - We Are Going To Start Taking:
 - A Closer Look At:
 - The Enemy Of:
 - The World!
 - Which - Even Though:
 - Jesus Tells Us In:
 - John 16:33 - “I Have Overcome The World!”
 - And Now - We Can:
 - “Be Of Good Cheer!”
3. Yet - It Is The Enemy:
 - Of The World:
 - That We Often Struggle With - And Even:
 - Fall Prey To - The Most!
 - And - This Is Because The World:
 - Is Probably The Most:
 - Deceptive & Devious:
 - Of Our Enemies!
 - Since - It Touches:
 - What We Know & Love Best!
 - Our Own Lives & Homes:
 - In This World!
4. And So - Tonight:
 - Let’s Open Our Bibles Back Up To:
 - 1 John 2:15-17 - Where We Come To:
 - A Familiar Passage:
 - About The World - And:
 - What Our Relationship With The World Is Supposed To Be Like:
 - As Christians!
 - 1 John 2:15-17 - Where The Apostle John:
 - Instructs & Commands Us:
 - To - “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. / For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. / And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever!”
5. In These Verses:
 - We See Just How Serious:
 - We Need To Take This Enemy Of Our Souls!
 - Just How Serious:
 - We Need To Take:
 - The World!

* We Need To Take It Seriously - Because Of:

1. ***The Serious Command:***
 - That We First Come To:
 - In These Verses!
 - The Command To:
 - “Love Not” - Or - “Not Love”:

- “The World!”
- Now - Whenever We Find:
 - A Specific Command Like This:
 - In Scripture - We Need To:
 - Take It Seriously!
- Because - Commands Like This:
 - Reveal:
 - The Real Concern Jesus Has:
 - For Our Souls!
- In John 14:15 - Jesus Said:
 - “If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments!”
 - And - He Wants Us To Keep His Commandments:
 - Because He Knows That:
 - They Are What’s Best For Us!
 - And - Jesus Knows:
 - What Is Best For:
 - Our Own Love & Affections!
 - He Knows & Tells Us:
 - Who & What:
 - We Are *To* Love! And:
 - He Knows & Tells Us:
 - Who & What:
 - We Are *To* “Love *Not!*”
 - So - “Love Not The World!”
 - It Is A Serious Command That:
 - Sadly - We Don’t Take As Seriously Today As:
 - Christians & Churches Once Did!
- This Is Something That We Need To:
 - Recover & Get Back To!
 - But - The Question Now Stands:
 - “What Is The World?”
 - We’ll Get To This - But:
 - Before We Do:
 - We Are Then Given Another Reason:
 - To Take The World Seriously!
 - And That Is Because Of:

2. ***The Serious Compass:***

- Of The Command That We Were Just Given!
 - 2:15 - “Love Not The World, Neither The Things That Are In The World!”
 - This Phrase Shows Us Just How:
 - Comprehensive This Command Is!
 - It Encompasses:
 - Not Just The World Itself - But:
 - Anything & Everything:
 - That Is Connected To:
 - “The World!”
 - So - The World As A Whole:
 - Is Dangerous:
 - For Us As Christians:
 - To Love & To Set Our:
 - Affections Upon!
 - But So Is:
 - The World In Its Parts!
 - Its Not Just Describing:
 - The Things *On* The World - But:
 - The Things *In* The World!
 - That Is - The Very Things:

- That Make Up The World!
- And This Is Because:
 - The Things *In* The World:
 - That *Make Up* The World:
 - Are The Very Things That:
 - Should Cause Us As Christians:
 - To “Love Not The World!”
 - **IE**: Its Kind Of Like One Of The Things I Really Don’t Like When It Comes To Food - Tomato Soup! I Don’t Like Tomato Soup As A Whole - Because - I Don’t Like The Things That Make Tomato Soup What It Is!
 - I Don’t Like Its Taste / Its Smell / Its Texture / Its Color!
 - And So It Is With The “Things In The World!” The “Things That Are In The World” Are The Very Things That Make The World As A Whole:
 - Dangerous & Distasteful For A Christian Who As Tasted Of The Grace & Goodness Of The Lord!
- So - We Need To Take The World:
 - Seriously - Because Of:
 - The Serious Command:
 - We Are Given - And Because Of:
 - The Serious Compass:
 - Of The Command!
 - But - What Is “The World?”
 - Well - Before We Get To That:
 - John Then Gives Us Another Reason:
 - To Take The World Seriously!
 - And That Is Because Of:

3. ***The Serious Consequence:***

- Of Loving The World!
 - In 2:15b - John Tells Us About:
 - This Serious Consequence:
 - “If Any Man Love The World, The Love Of The Father Is Not In Him!”
 - Now - The “Love Of The Father” Can Be Seen:
 - In One Of Two Ways!
 - It Can Mean:
 - The Father’s Love:
 - For You - Or:
 - Your Love:
 - For The Father!
 - And - I Believe The Latter Meaning:
 - Is What John Is Referring To Here:
 - Because Of What Jesus Himself Told Us Back In Matthew 6:24:
 - About Love & Service!
 - There - He Said:
 - “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon!”
- In This Verse:
 - Jesus Teaches Us That:
 - There Are Two Things That:
 - Cannot Go Together:
 - When It Comes To Loving & Serving The Lord!
 - “Ye Cannot Serve God And Mammon!”
 - Because - You Cannot Love Both:
 - At The Same Time:
 - And - In The Same Way!
 - And So - When It Comes To:
 - The Love Of The World:
 - The Same Thing Is True!

- When You Love The World:
 - It Will Always Crowd Out & Take Over:
 - Your Love For God!
- And - This Is A Very Dangerous & Distressing Situation:
 - To Find Yourself In:
 - If You Are A True:
 - Child Of God!
 - “If Any Man Love The World, The Love Of The Father Is Not In Him!”
 - That Is - The Love That:
 - You *Ought* To Have For:
 - Your Heavenly Father:
 - Is Being Crowded Out By Your Love:
 - For The World!
 - And - That Is Tragic! Because:
 - Like The Church In Ephesus:
 - In Revelation 2 - You Have Left Your “First Love!”
 - But - Again:
 - What Is “The World?”
 - Well - To Finally Answer This Question:
 - John Reveals:

4. ***The Serious Composition:***

- Of The World - In 2:16:
 - For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world!”
 - So - Here Are The Constituent Parts:
 - Of The World - That Make It:
 - So Dangerous & Distasteful:
 - To True Believers & Followers Of Christ!
 - And - We See That “The World” Does Not:
 - Merely Refer To:
 - The Physical Or Material World:
 - In Which We Live!
 - After All - One Of The Things We Learn:
 - In Genesis - Is That When God Made:
 - The Material World - He Made It:
 - “Very Good!” (1:31)
 - Of Course - That Was Before:
 - Man’s Fall Into Sin!
 - But - When Sin Entered The Physical World:
 - And - Death By Sin:
 - The Way Man Treated God’s World:
 - Brought Forth A Different Kind Of World!
 - A Spiritual “World Of Wickedness!”
 - Which Became Its Own Living Entity - And Even:
 - Something Like A Monster:
 - Which Feeds Upon The Sins:
 - Of All The People In This World!
 - And So - Even Though:
 - We Often See 1 John 2:16:
 - In Terms Of Our Own Fallen Nature:
 - In Truth:
 - The Lust Of The Flesh!
 - The Lust Of They Eyes! And:
 - The Pride Of Life!
 - Make Up The World:
 - Which Is The Enemy Of Our Souls!
 - Because - The World:

- Is What Draws Us Away From:
 - The Person:
 - Of Our Creator - And:
 - The Very Purpose:
 - Of Our Creation!
 - To Know & Love & Glorify Him!
- So The World Is Made Up Of:
- Everything That Attracts:
 - The Sinful Appetites:
 - Of Man!
 - This Is What John Describes As:
 - "The Lust Of The Flesh!"
 - Of Course - God Has Given Us:
 - Physical Appetites:
 - That Can & Should Be Satisfied In The Right Ways Given To Us In God's Word!
 - But - Because Of Sin:
 - All Too Often - We Try To:
 - Satisfy Those Natural Appetites:
 - In Inordinate & Immoral Ways!
 - And The World:
 - Like A Beast:
 - Feeds Upon These Lusts:
 - And Tries To Capture Our Appetites Unto Itself!
 - The World Is Also Made Up Of:
 - Everything That Attracts:
 - The Sinful Affections:
 - Of Man!
 - This Is What John Describes As:
 - "The Lust Of The Eyes!"
 - Again - God Has Given Us:
 - Genuine Feelings & Affections:
 - That Can & Should Be Directed To The Right Objects - Also Found In God's Word!
 - But - Because Of Sin:
 - Our Feelings & Affections:
 - Are Now Drawn To
 - What Is Inferior - Instead Of:
 - What Is Superior!
 - Which Is Why Paul Tells Us:
 - In Colossians 3:2 - "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth!"
 - Because - We Need To Do This:
 - Purposefully & Intentionally!
 - Because - The World:
 - Like A Beast:
 - Tries To Captivate Our Hearts:
 - So That It Might Grow Fat Through These Lusts!
 - But - We Also See That:
 - The World Is Further Made Up Of:
 - Everything That Attracts:
 - The Sinful Ambitions:
 - Of Man!
 - This Is What John Describes As:
 - "The Pride Of Life!"
 - This Refers To The:
 - Sinful & Selfish Boasting:
 - About Life:
 - That You Really Have Nothing To Do With!

- It Is Taking The Glory:
 - Away From God - As:
 - The Creator Of Your Life!
 - And - Taking That Glory:
 - Upon Yourself!
- For Example - It Is The “Pride Of Life” When:
 - According To Proverbs 27:1:
 - You “Boast Thyself Of To Morrow!”
 - As If You Have Any Control Over The Time Of Your Life!
 - And Yet - We Are Told There:
 - “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth!”
- But - When We Do:
 - The World:
 - Like A Beast:
 - Absorbs All This Pride:
 - And Seeks To Cultivate More Of It:
 - In Our Hearts!
- So - All Of These:
 - “The Lust Of The Flesh!”
 - “The Lust Of The Eyes!”
 - And - “The Pride Of Life!”
 - At The Same Time:
 - Make Up The World:
 - And - Are:
 - Made Up By The World!
 - Again - It Is A Grotesque Monster:
 - That Feeds On Sin - And:
 - Perpetuates Sin:
 - At The Same Time!
- And - It Is Entirely Opposed To:
 - The Nature Of God!
 - Since God Is Truth:
 - The World Tries To Make Up:
 - Its Own Kind Of Truth - Which Are But Lies!
 - Since God Is Love:
 - The World Tries To Make Up:
 - Its Own Kind Of Love - Which Is But Lust!
 - Since God Is Light:
 - The World Tries To Make Up:
 - Its Own Kind Of Light - Which Is Really Darkness!
 - Since God Is Good:
 - The World Tries To Make Up:
 - Its Own Kind Of Goodness - Which Is Nothing But Evil!
 - Which Is What We Find Going On In:
 - Isaiah 5:20 - “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”
 - But - The World’s Counterfeit:
 - Truth & Love & Light & Goodness:
 - All Appeal & Attract:
 - The Fallen & Beastly Nature:
 - Of Man!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - As Christians - We Are Called To:
 - “Love Not The World!”
 - Its Actually Far Worse Than:
 - Tomato Soup - In All:
 - Of Its Composition!

- But Then - In 2:17 - John Gives Us:
 - Another Serious Reason To:
 - “Love Not The World!”
 - And That Is Because Of:

5. *The Serious Conclusion:*

- That Is Coming Upon The World!
 - “And The World Passeth Away, And The Lust Thereof!”
 - So - This Beast Of The World:
 - Cannot & Will Not:
 - Last Forever!
 - In Fact - It Is Already:
 - In The Process Of:
 - “Passing Away!”
 - All Because Jesus Himself:
 - Is The One Who Has Already:
 - “Overcome The World!” (John 16:33)
- So - Instead Of Being:
 - Drawn To The World:
 - We Need To Daily Remember:
 - That We Are At War:
 - With The World! And:
 - The World Is At War:
 - With Us!
 - And So - That Leads John:
 - To Remind Us About:

6. *The Serious Choice:*

- That We Need To Make:
 - When It Comes To Our Relationship:
 - With This World!
 - Because - According To 2:17b:
 - “But He That Doeth The Will Of God Abideth Forever!”
- So - The Choice:
 - Offered To You As A Christian:
 - Is To Either Follow:
 - The Will Of The Lord - Or:
 - The Will Of The World!
 - But - It Should Really Be:
 - Not Much Of A Choice:
 - For His People:
 - At All!
 - Because - The Will Of The World:
 - Will Pass Away!
 - But - The Will Of The Lord:
 - Leads To Life Everlasting!

Conclusion:

1. So - The First Step After:
 - Trusting In & Resting In:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Who Has “Overcome The World!”
 - Is To Then:
 - Align Your Appetites & Affections & Ambitions:
 - With The Will Of God!
 - Which Is To Glorify Him:
 - “In Your Body, And In Your Spirit, Which Are God’s!” (1 Corinthians 6:20)
 - Of Course - This Is:

- A Life-Long Proposition!
 - But - We Will Pursue It:
 - If We Just Remember That:
- 2. We Need To Get Back To:
 - Taking The World:
 - Seriously As:
 - An Enemy Of Our Souls!
 - So That We Might Not Let:
 - The Love For The World:
 - Choke Out:
 - Our Love For God & For The Things Of God!
 - Is There Something:
 - Doing That In Your Life:
 - Today?

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***