

Message #8

I John 2:15-17

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS DETERMINED BY ONE'S LOVE FOR THE WORLD OR FOR THE WILL OF GOD.

THOUGHT #1 – The command to not love the world. **2:15a**

Fact #1 - The command to not love the world nor the things in the world is a negative imperative.

What this practically means is that the action was in progress and it needed to stop. There were people in the church who were involved in the habitual action of loving the world and the things in the world. The word “love” is the love of reason and choice rather than emotion, so there were those who were actually choosing to love the world and the things in the world rather than the will of God.

Fact #2 - The world John has in mind is a specific world.

In fact, the noun world has an article, which means John wants the specific world he is thinking about identified.

The Greek word “world” is kosmos (cosmos), which has as its basic meaning order, organization and arrangement as opposed to disorder and chaos. This term “world” is used to refer to several things in Scripture and obviously, by use of the article, John wants us to pinpoint which use he has in his mind.

- 1) The term “world” is used to refer to the universe that God created. Acts 17:24; John 17:24
- 2) The term “world” is used to refer to all humanity for whom Christ died. John 3:16; I John 2:2
- 3) The term “world” is used to refer to the inhabited earth. Rom. 1:8
- 4) The term “world” is used to refer to the evil world order which is organized by Satan, which is in total opposition to God. I John 4:1, 4.

What John is commanding is that we must stop loving the world and things of the world which are in opposition to God and try to leave God out. We must stop loving anything that continually and habitually promotes an anti-God and anti-godly philosophy. If it is not in accordance with God's Word, it is of this world and anti the true God.

Now “the things of the world” as you will see are not primarily tangible things. In other words, although “the things of the world” may contain the material, it is not primarily the material things that John has in his mind. The “things of the world” have more to do with certain attitudes about certain things which are anti-God and anti-God's Word.

THOUGHT #2 – The reasons for the command to not love the world. **2:15b-17**

Reason #1 - Because if one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **2:15b**

If the habitual practice of our life is to choose to esteem the world and the system that is anti-God and anti His Word, then we do not have the love of the Father in us. Now the phrase “love of the Father” may mean: 1) Love which the Father has for us; 2) Love which we have for the Father.

Reason #2 - Because if one loves the world, one loves something that is not of the Father. **2:16**

Make no mistake about this—nothing that is in the satanic world system, no matter how intellectual, successful or sensual, is from God.

World Lure #1 - The lust of the flesh. **2:16a**

Now the word “lust” is the Greek word epithumia and it almost always occurs with an evil connotation. We may define lust as being the urgent, anxious, self-seeking desire that is emotional, passionate and impulsive, which is triggered by the thought that something will bring pleasure and satisfaction. We may understand the term “flesh” as referring to that part of our nature that has a sin tendency. John has in mind everything and anything that stirs one’s passions impulsively and powerfully away from God.

World Lure #2 - The lust of the eyes. **2:16b**

The lust of the eyes may include the idea of having an emotional, impulsive desire and longing for something you have seen or it may refer to having an emotional, impulsive desire and longing for something you think you need to see. The word “eyes” definitely has to do with the concept of sight.

World Lure #3 - The pride of life. **2:16c**

Now the pride of life refers to arrogant thinking concerning anything in life which is contrary to God. It is an attitude that thinks more highly of oneself than one ought to think. It is the surge of emotion that says I am superior.

Reason #3 - Because if one loves the world, one loves something that is passing away. **2:17a**

The verb “passing away” is present tense, meaning the satanic world is in the process of passing away.

Reason #4 - Because if one does the will of God, one will abide forever. **2:17c**

If you want to invest yourself in something permanent, invest yourself in understanding and doing the will of God.

What is it that you really love today? If you can honestly say I love the Word of God and the will of God, you are in fellowship with God. There is nothing wrong with loving life. There is nothing wrong with enjoying life. But there is something drastically wrong when we are passionately addicted to things that are in opposition to God.