

CALLED TO LOVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT LOVE

081620P

INTRODUCTION

1. "A world without love" - Paul McCartney.
2. Define "love" Biblically - *God is love* - revealed in Jesus' cross, received by faith as forgiven sinner.
3. Last considered the transaction of "gospel love": confess & forgive. The pain & pleasure of gospel love - 1C 12:15; 3Jn 1:4

1st: We Live In A World Of Perverse Religious Love

1. 2 T 3:1-5 what word is most used in these vss? - *love*.
 - i. *difficult times:*
 - ii. *lovers of self:*
 - iii. *lovers of money:* 1Jn 2:15-16; Lk 16:14
 - iv. *boastful:*
 - v. *arrogant:*
 - vi. *revilers:*
 - vii. *disobedient to parents:*
 - viii. *ungrateful:*
 - ix. *unholy:*
 - x. *unloving:* KJV: *unnatural affection:*
 - xi. *irreconcilable:*
 - xii. *malicious gossips:*
 - xiii. *w/o self-control:*
 - xiv. *brutal:*
 - xv. *haters of good:*
 - xvi. *treacherous:*
 - xvii. *reckless:*
 - Oxviii. *conceited:*
 - xix. *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*
 - xx. *holding to a form of godliness altho they have denied its power:*
 - a. Tit 1:16

- b. Facade of religion but heart that loves self, money, & pleasure
- c. In last days, religious people's worship will be more fun than reverent; more man-centered than Christ-centered; more activity centered than truth-centered [2T 4:3-4]. Rv: motif of Apostasy

xxi. *avoid such men:*

2. **Applic:** How can we extend gospel love to perverse religiosity?

- i. Be confident that Jesus is head of His church - Rv 2-3. Be humble. Rm 14:4, 10 - we will each give an account for ourselves.
- ii. Have an eternal perspective - not pull tares lest pull wheat [Mat 13:29].
- iii. Be peacemakers [101214P]: 1] be berean-spirited [A17:10-12] & don't relinquish what you have received [Phil 3:13-16]; 2] Help pilgrims make progress - Ptr [A 10]; Tim [A 16]; Apollos [A 18]. Be willing to be taught by Xns who are strong where you are weak.
- iv. Be discerning - apostasy is real - Mat 7:15-20; v21-23. Rv 18:4a *Come out of her My people* - re: Harlot = apostate & false religion.

2nd: We Live In A World Of Cold Love

1. 1 Tim 4:1-3 *last times:* demonic docts - target creation ords - Rm 1:18,32
2. Mt 24:12 pervasive [*most people*] lawlessness & lovelessness.
 - i. *grow cold*
 - ii. the cause? *b/c lawlessness is increased* - w/o love to God or neighbor. Primed for *the man of lawlessness & the apostasy* among those who have no love of the truth - 2Th 2:3-8.
3. What is at issue? Conscience - regulated by 10 commandments.
4. Here is where *love enemies* is astonishing. Gospel love can yet speak to unbeliever's conscience: good deeds & good news.
5. **Applic:** Only Jesus can teach us - Mt 11:28-30 & Lk 15:1-2
 - i. Gentle & humble of heart - compassion to sinners.
 - ii. Attack kingdom of darkness - as slaughtered Lamb.
6. Let us practice gospel love as a church - boot-camp - Eph 3:16-21