

Lessons From I John

Love Not The World

(I Jn 2:15-17)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lesson From I John."
 - a. Things to keep in mind concerning I John.
 - i. He was writing so that the Christians would "know" they have eternal life.
 1. **I Jn 5:13; 1:1-4**
 - ii. He was writing against Gnosticism.
 1. The idea that Jesus in the flesh could not be God.
3. What we have looked at so far.
 - a. **I Jn 1:1-4**
 - i. We learned that the fullness of joy only comes when we are in fellowship with God, which is a result of gaining eternal life.
 - b. **I Jn 1:5-10**
 - i. We learned what was needed to walk with God.
 1. Being adopted by God.
 2. Working to have the same mind as God.
 3. Being in fellowship with others who strive to have the same mind as God.
 - c. **I Jn 2:1-6**
 - i. We learned what was needed to walk with Jesus.
 1. We need to keep His commandments.
 2. We need to keep the right mentality...desire to strive for perfection.
 - d. **I Jn 2:7-11**
 - i. We learned what was needed to have brotherly love.
 1. An understanding of the blessing of its age and freshness of its youth.
 2. An understanding of what happens if we have it and if we don't.
4. What we will be looking at today.
 - a. **I Jn 2:15-17**
 - i. We will look at two points made by John inspired by God.
 1. What it means to love the world.
 2. What it means to love God.
5. With that in mind let us look at our lesson for today.
 - a. Let us examine the difference between loving the world and God.
 - i. Is there benefits to one over the other?

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I. Loving The World

- A. Understanding what the world is here in I John
 - 1. The world is not the physical world we live in today.
 - i. In other words God's creation.
 - a. **Gn 1:1** "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."¹
 - ii. Why, because it was "very good."
 - a. **Gn 1:31** "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."
 - 2. The world is not physical man or mankind.
 - i. Even God loves mankind however hates the world.
 - a. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
 - 3. The world here in our passage is dealing with sin!!!!
 - i. "the "sphere" in which sin, evil, and Satan dominates...Just as the phrase "the world of sports" describes the domain in which sports dominates, so this "world" is one in which sin dominates" (Love Not The World by Copeland, Mark)
- B. Love not the world or the things in the world
 - 1. It seems obvious to say love not sin because of the many problems that arise from doing so.
 - i. Sin is fleeting.
 - a. **He 11:24-25** "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin."
 - ii. Sin is separating.
 - a. **Is 59:1-2** "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."
 - iii. Sin is devastating.
 - a. **Ro 6:23a** "For the wages of sin is death..."
 - iv. Sin is everlasting if not rectified.
 - a. **Lk 13:27-28** "But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' 28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted.

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2. It is quite different to say love not the things in the world.
 - i. Remember however what world here means, sin.
 - a. Thus we are not to love the fruit of sin either.
 - ii. As mentioned before sin is enticing and thus it tries to lure us into it.
 - a. It sends forth a persona of good looking fruit that seems to look, smell, and taste good, but in truth it is rotten, stinks, and wretched.
 - iii. Notice what is "in" the world.
 - a. The fruit of the flesh.
 1. **Ga 5:19-21** "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality [fornication], impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (brackets mine)
 - i. Notice these fleshly lusts are sexual and social.
 2. Thus we are not to "lust" after the sexual and social sins.
 - b. The fruit for the eyes.
 1. **Ep 5:5** "For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral [fornicator] or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God." (brackets mine)
 - i. The unlawful longing for what one "sees" is summed up in one word "covetous."
 2. Therefore we are not to lust after those thing we "see" and are not to have.
 - c. The fruit of life.
 1. **I Co 1:26-31** "For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."
 - i. Being prideful over age, experience, ancestry, past accomplishments, money, power...,is downright unwise.
 2. Hence we are not to put our trust in life achievements.

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- C. Loving the world means loving something that is passing away
 - 1. This world and the sin therein will one day be no more.
 - i. **II Pt 3:10** "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." (NKJV)
 - 2. It makes no sense to "love" something that is not going to last.
 - i. The word for love in this passage is "agape" once again.
 - a. Remember that agape means to "desire the spiritual best for that which is loved."
 - 1. This is when it is used accurately ie godly.
 - b. However when used for the "world" it means to "lust after one's own wants to the detriment of one's spiritual self."
 - 1. As a result one can see the "play on words" used by God through John.
 - 3. Therefore we find the foolishness in lusting after something that is passing away and spiritually killing us.
 - D. What we find is that loving the world only gives us momentary satisfaction never everlasting bliss
 - 1. There is something that does give us everlasting bliss however...

II. Loving God

- A. Notice what loving God rather than the world produces
 - 1. It produces the love of the Father in us.
 - i. In other words we understand "agape" love.
 - a. We understand desiring the spiritual best for our brothers and sisters and the lost.
 - b. We grasp, the best we can, the "love" God has for the world in sending His Son for us.
 - 1. **Jn 13:34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."
 - 2. It produces faithfulness in God.
 - i. Because we will be doing the will of the Father.
 - a. **Jn 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments."
 - b. **Mt 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." (NKJV)
 - ii. There are going to be far too many that hear this from our Lord concerning their faithfulness.
 - a. **Lk 6:46** "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

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3. It produces living with God forever.
 - i. It takes a concerted effort on our part to "walk in the light," but doing so has such a great reward.
 - a. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
 - ii. We are rewarded with having our sins removed upon request.
 - a. **I Jn 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - iii. We are rewarded with having fellowship with God & brethren.
 - a. **I Jn 1:3** "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."
 - iii. We are rewarded with everlasting life with God.
 - a. **I Jn 5:13** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."

CONCLUSION

1. Let us not love the world and rather put our love in He whom is everlasting that we may one day here that great statement, "...Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (**Mt 25:21**).
2. Question: What do you love, the world or God?
 - a. If the world, consider what we talked about today and the dangers of that decision. You can choose the world but the consequences are negative to the "enth degree." Repent therefore and come back to God who is waiting for you with open arms.
 - b. If God, consider what we talked about today as well and the great benefits that come with such a decision, and continue to mature in your dedication of such.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**