



I JOHN: WHEN TRUTH IS LIVED
“THE LOVE GOD HATES”
I JOHN 2: 15-17

JOHN HAS BEEN TELLING US WHAT THE RIGHT KIND OF LOVE LOOKS LIKE—IT IS WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD, HAVING FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM AND WITH OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS. IT IS LOVING GOD AND OBEYING HIM. IT IS LOVING OUR FELLOW MAN WITH THE SAME KIND OF GOD WITH WHICH GOD LOVES US.

BUT JOHN ALSO GOES ON TO SAY THAT THERE IS A WRONG KIND OF LOVE—THE KIND OF LOVE WHICH GOD HATES. THIS IS LOVE FOR THAT WHICH THE BIBLE CALLS “THE WORLD.” THAT IS THE FOCUS OF OUR PASSAGE FOR THIS MORNING.

THERE ARE THREE MAIN REASONS WHY THE CHRISTIAN IS NOT TO LOVE “THE WORLD.”

I. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE WORLD IS

THE NEW TESTAMENT WORD “WORLD” HAS THREE DIFFERENT MEANINGS. IT SOMETIMES MEANS THE

PHYSICAL WORLD, *THE EARTH*. IT ALSO MEANS THE *HUMAN* WORLD, *MANKIND*. BUT THIS WARNING JOHN GIVES US IS NOT ABOUT THE WORLD OF NATURE OR THE WORLD OF MANKIND. THIS “WORLD” JOHN SPEAKS OF IS OUR ENEMY—AN INVISIBLE SPIRITUAL SYSTEM OPPOSED TO GOD AND CHRIST. IT IS SATAN’S SYSTEM FOR OPPOSING THE WORK OF CHRIST ON EARTH. IT IS THE VERY OPPOSITE OF WHAT IS GODLY. JUST AS THE HOLY SPIRIT USES PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH GOD’S WILL ON EARTH, SO SATAN USES PEOPLE TO FULFILL HIS EVIL PURPOSES.

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF BELIEF SYSTEMS, IDEOLOGIES, PHILOSOPHIES, POLITICAL THEORIES AND BELIEFS, AND UNBIBLICAL WORLDVIEWS WHICH ARE OPPOSED TO THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE. JOHN SAYS WE ARE NOT TO LOVE SOMETHING WHICH HATES OUR LORD AND HATES US SO MUCH.

II. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE WORLD DOES TO US

WORLINESS IS MORE AN *ATTITUDE* THAN AN *ACTIVITY*, AND IT IS THE ATTITUDE WHICH LEADS TO THE ACTIVITY. WORLINESS IS A MATTER OF THE HEART, FOR EVEN THOUGH WE MAY STAY AWAY FROM BAD PLACES, WE CAN STILL LOVE THE WORLD. TO THE EXTENT THAT A CHRISTIAN LOVES THE WORLD SYSTEM AND THE THINGS IN IT, HE DOES NOT LOVE THE FATHER. WHEN A CHRISTIAN LOSES HIS ENJOYMENT OF THE FATHER’S LOVE, HE FINDS IT HARD TO OBEY THE FATHER’S WILL.

WHEN WE PUT THESE TWO FACTORS TOGETHER, THEN WE HAVE A PRACTICAL DEFINITION OF WORLINESS: ANYTHING IN A CHRISTIAN’S LIFE THAT CAUSES HIM TO LOSE HIS ENJOYMENT OF THE FATHER’S LOVE OR HIS DESIRE TO DO THE FATHER’S WILL IS WORLDLY AND MUST BE AVOIDED.

COMING TO TERMS WITH THIS WORLD BETRAYS A SAD STATE OF OUR SOUL. JOHN POINTS OUT THAT THE EVIL WORLD SYSTEM USES THREE DEVICES TO TRAP CHRISTIANS: “THE LUST OF THE FLESH”, “THE LUST OF THE EYES”, AND “THE PRIDE OF LIFE.”

1. “THE LUST OF THE FLESH”---*A SHAMEFUL APPETITE*. THIS INCLUDES ANYTHING THAT APPEALS TO OUR FALLEN NATURE, TO OUR NATURAL DESIRES AND APPETITES. THESE THINGS ARE BASICALLY GOOD AS GOD GAVE THEM TO US, BUT IF WE SEEK TO SATISFY THEM IN FORBIDDEN WAYS, THEN WE ARE SINNING.
2. “THE LUST OF THE EYES”—*A SHOWY APPEARANCE*. SATAN KNOWS HOW TO PACKAGE AND MERCHANDISE HIS WARES SO THAT THEY APPEAR ATTRACTIVE. HE USES THIS TO LURE US INTO TEMPTATION AND SIN.
3. “THE PRIDE OF LIFE”---*“SHALLOW APPLAUSE.”* PRIDE IS THE ORIGINAL SIN WHICH BROUGHT LUCIFER DOWN, AND IT IS STILL A STRONG TEMPTATION AMONG US. IT CAN TAKE MANY FORMS. BOASTFUL PRIDE SEPARATES US FROM GOD AND OUR FELLOWMAN.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



III. BECAUSE OF WHERE THE WORLD IS GOING

"THE WORLD IS PASSING AWAY" (V. 17). SOME PEOPLE MISTAKENLY ASSUME THAT THIS WORLD WILL LAST FOREVER, BUT THIS WORLD SYSTEM WILL BE JUDGED BY THE LORD JESUS WHEN HE RETURNS.

AS GOD'S PEOPLE WE ARE NOT TO ATTACH OURSELVES TO THIS WORLD, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS CREATED A SPECIAL PLACE CALLED "HEAVEN" FOR US TO ENJOY FOREVER.