

“LOVE NOT THE WORLD”

INTRODUCTION

God gives each person coming into the world, A CHOICE. The choice is between right and wrong, life or death, or obeying God or disobeying Him. Josh. 24:15; Deut. 30:19-20 (discuss). WE make a choice of “life” if we are wise. By choosing to obey God, we commit to obeying His commandments. v. 20

Another passage in the New Testament makes a contrasts between the objects of our love, that it is either for GOD, or the WORLD. Read 1 John 2;15-17. Now let’s make a study of this passage.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we have an obligation to LOVE GOD.

A. This is generally taught throughout the Bible. Deut. 6:4-6; cf Matt. 22:36-38

1. This is the first or foremost commandment, because if we LOVE God, we will be willing to do everything else He commands.

2. Love is the basis and motivation for ALL of our obedience. John 14:15; 1 John 5 : 1-3

B. Loving God is MORE than just **saying** “I love God,” or addressing Him in prayer, saying “I love you.” 1 John 2:15

II. 2nd, we have an admonition NOT TO LOVE CERTAIN THINGS.

A. We cannot love God AND the sinful things of the world that are promoted by Satan. Matt. 6:24

1. Love for worldly sins will cancel out any love we may have for God. 1 John 2:15

2. Loving God calls for us to REJECT or DENY ourselves participation in the sinful pleasures of the world. 1 John 4:19; CF 2 Tim. 4:10

B. What are we NOT to love that the world offers?

1. John says we are not to love the **WORLD**—a comprehensive term for ALL that is IN the world. (v. 15, 16)

2. Then, John summarizes the categories of the **specific** things world offers.

C. What are the specific things IN THE WORLD of which John writes?

1. 1st, there is the **“lust of the flesh.”** v. 16

a. The word “lust” is from the Greek word *epithumia*, which simply means “desire”, which is a basic quality of man to “desire” certain things.

b. However, we are NOT to desire or yearn for the satisfaction of our desires in a sinful way. Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:2-5; 2 Pet. 2:9-15 (Read and/or explain as desired or as time allows)

2. 2nd, there is the **“lust of the eyes,”** or the strong and perverted desires for material *things* and/or material *gain*. Jas. 4:13-15; 5:1-3; 1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19; Luke 12:15-21

3. 3rd, there is the **“pride of life.”** 1 John 2:15; cf ASV (vain glory)

a. This refers to earthly accomplishments and power that gives cause to boast.

b. This sin is mentioned last, for it usually follows gratification in the lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes, for it is the climax of all other sinful desires.

III. 3Rd, there are the REASONS FOR NEGATIVE LOVE.

- A. The first reason is that if we love these sinful things they are **CARNAL** in nature, and take away love for God. 1 John 2:15
- B. The second reason for not loving the things of the world is that these things are **EVIL** in nature, as they spring from the world, and not from God whom we love. Rom. 12:1-2
- C. The third reason we are not to love the world is because these things are **TEMPORARY** in nature and to love them, we will be taken down with them. 1 John 2:17A
- D. The fourth reason we are not to love the sinful things of the world is to do **ETERNAL** things, for in doing God's will, we can endure forever. v. 17B

CONCLUSION

- I. In conclusion, let's go back to the words of Moses in Deut. 30:19-20, with an application to us today. (Read and discuss)
 - A. Eternal life is better than eternal death, so choose the right thing.
 - B. Which of these do you choose—RIGHT NOW?
- II. If you are not a Christian and have allowed the "things of the world" to rule your life, you need to confess faith in Jesus, repent of sins, and be baptized into Him for the remission of sins; OR if you as a Christian have been caught up in these things of the world, and you now want to be right with God and live right in the future, we urge you to make it known, right now, as we stand together and sing for your encouragement.

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