

LOVE THAT CANNOT LAST

Text: I John 2:15-17

stop loving = cessation, an already existing condition

INTRODUCTION: Christ meant that His followers should be characterized by love. But there is one kind of love which all believers are to shun--the love of the world.

way of life

The world: The view of life that ignores God--all that is alienated from God. The "world" is not a definite thing; it is an atmosphere, spirit, a system. It is the sum of those influences which draw us away from God. It is the world as Satan has corrupted it; it is the enemy of God and the destroyer of men.

Love: not so much affection and feeling; rather a principle by which we deliberately live; it has to do with the will--demands the exercise of the whole man; the ruling principle by which a person lives. We are not to be guided and ruled by the world and its ways.

What is worldliness? Here worldliness is contrasted with doing of the will of God and loving the Father.

(1) Worldliness is anything that keeps us from doing the will of God.

(2) Worldliness is anything that hinders us from loving God more--from getting closer to God--makes it hard to pray.

Everything is prohibited, is marked as evil for the Christian which comes in competition with the love of God--that chills the heart towards God.

Whatever puts God out of one's thoughts, whatever hinders us from doing His will--rivals God in the heart "is of the world."

"not" is emphatic

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John goes on to show the mutual incompatibility and exclusiveness of the love of the Father and of the World. Love to the world excludes love to the Father. To love these things is to be the enemy. Anyone that loves the world prevents the Father from dwelling in that person's heart--the place is already occupied, the Father is kept out.

If such love is incompatible with believers--why write to them about it? Because of its down-dragging influence. He seeks to counteract its power--warns of the germs that disease the Christian life.

Love of the world and love of God cannot co-exist:

I. BECAUSE OF ITS SOURCE.

"Not out of the Father..." *did not*

1. The things in the world spring from seed that the Father sowed. Therefore they do not belong in a person's life. Sin is not essential to humanity--an intruder--a dark chapter in our history.

"Demer hath forsaken me - loved present world."

2. It is in opposition to God--to love the world is to commit treason against heaven's King and to double-cross Jesus Christ.
3. We are of God--must live in the spiritual realm and sphere.
 - (1) Fish must live in water or die.
 - (2) Cats must live on land or die.
 - (3) Humans must live in air or die.
 - (4) Christian must live in spiritual atmosphere or die.
4. They come from the world, from Satan--like drinking from a poisoned fountain. It is opposed to God.

II. BECAUSE OF ITS NATURE. (Verse 16)

Here is a sum of every possible sin. This is a list of destructive enemies of the soul. In this trinity of sin is contained every sin and temptation. The unlovely features should repel the children of God. These are stripped of all their glamour--- who can LOVE these things?

{ The first two: unholy desires for what ones does not possess.
The third: unholy pride in what one does possess.

1. The lust of the flesh--"good for food," "stones to bread."

Lust: desire, longing

Flesh: lower nature, sin principle--physical pleasure.

- (1) It is a restless seeking after something--wealth, but find out it does not satisfy.
- (2) There is nothing wrong with desire--but this is desire of the flesh--that which is unlawful--the abuse of God's gifts.
- (3) There is nothing wrong with food--but to put this first is to become a slave to Mannon.
- (4) Ill-of rest, but not before God.
- (4) Every desire that looks beyond the fences of temperance and morality. The sin is in the LOVE of these desires.
- (5) Lust of the flesh is eating the vitals of our country--immorality, drunkenness, materialism, etc.

The world, sin ,etc. appeal to the lowest part of man's nature.

Flood of immorality that threatens to sweep away the foundations of America.

2. LUST OF THE EYES.

(1) The longing to behold unlawful sights because of the sinful pleasure to be derived from the sight; idle and diseased curiosity. It includes the lust that reaches out beyond what a person can actually get hold of. Lust of the eyes is satisfied with contemplating, thinking. It seeks mental pleasure where the former seeks physical gratification. It is concerned with taste; mind is a garbage can.

(2) Eve was the mother of all the painters, poets, authors as well as the hungry. This is more refined.

- a. Books
- b. fashion and dress
- c. art, etc.

All-No other people has been endowed with such an eye and sense for beauty as the ancients Greeks; the broken relics of their work are the models of our artist today--great learning, etc. But a deadly taint of corruption ran through that world and caused its destruction.

(3) When a country grows blind to the beauty of holiness, forgets the spiritual laws, and gives the reins to licence, it becomes deadly.

(4) The world talks about "pleasant companionship, innocent amusements, having a good time, art for art's sake--" these are all well sounding names to cover up the vileness.

When the devil has properly trained the eye, what will it not see to keep the furnance of ungodly emotions burning? The world tries to paint in bright colors over the black garbage of sin.

3. The Pride of Life--"arrogant display, swagger."

Bios - gods of life - possessions

This is an empty and vain assurance in one's own resources--issues in contempt of God's laws.

(1) This person does not ask regarding the Father's will, but acts as if he were God--it is that hollow arrogance which presumes that it can decide or direct the course of life without God.

(2) The word was used of a quack doctor *professing something did not have.*