

Life That Is Real
“The Love God Hates”
I John 2:12-17

Introduction - Did you know that there is a love that God hates? What is the love that God hates? “Love not the world,” vs. 15. Yes, “God is love,” but God is also “light,” so “Holy.”

So, “*if you love the Lord, you must hate evil*”, Ps. 97:10. The text we want to examine today is a brief parenthetical section. John has just given two test:

- 1. The moral test; of obedience,** vs. 3.
- 2. The social test; of love,** vs. 9.

But John’s concern is that he has given his readers the impression that he thinks they are in darkness; or that he doubts the reality of their salvation. It’s not his readers that he questions, it’s the faith of the false teachers!

So John, in two short digressions:

- 1. Declares his assurance of their spiritual state,** vv. 12-14.)
- 2. He tells them that as true believers they are not to love the world,** vv. 15-17.

His purpose is to give assurance to the genuine Christian; and to rob the counterfeit of a false assurance.

I. His Assurance About The Church, vv. 12-14.

John has no doubt, but that his readers have been born into God’s family. He divides them into three groups: Little children; fathers; and young men, and he addresses them twice.

1. Little Children, literally “born ones.”

- “Your sins are forgiven,” vs. 12 (all Christians)
- “For His name sake,” vs. 12.
- “Ye have know the father,” vs. 13.

2. “The fathers” vs. 13, “ye have know Him that is from the beginning.”

It’s God the Father. They have ripened knowledge of God. From years of walking with God.

3. “Young men,” vs. 14.

- a. **“You are strong,”** vs. 4. Its natural virtue of young men. Notice John didn’t say, “to be strong.”
- b. **Why are they strong?** “The Word of God abideth in you,” vs. 14. So they are not strong in themselves. No one is spiritually strong by himself. We are made strong through the Word of God. Illus.: Ps. 119:9, “How can a young man.....”
- c. **“You have overcome the wicked one.”** “The Christian life is not just enjoying the forgiveness of our sins, or the fellowship of knowing God, it’s also fighting the enemy.

So through the power of the sword of the spirit and the word of grace, they overcome Satan! Illus.: Jesus tempted by Satan!

The Christian life:

- Forgiveness**
- Fellowship**
- Fighting**

II. His Appeal To The Church

It’s a command, vs. 15. “Love,” Gr. “agapao.”

Why are we commanded not to love the world?

1. “Because of what the world is,” vs. 15.

What is the world? “World,” Gr. “Kosmos”- John first used the word in 2:2, but now in three verses, he used it six times! The Greek word “kosmos” basically denotes order, or arrangement, (it’s the opposite of chaos; our English word, “cosmetics” comes from it.) So it’s an ordered system.

It was used by John three basic ways:

- a. “For the universe,” John 1:10 “He was in...”
- b. “The world of men,” John 3:16
- c. “An evil system,” “Organized under the dominion of Satan not God,” see 519.

When John says that Christians are not to “love the world or anything in the world,” he is not thinking then so much of materialism (“things”) as he is of the attitudes that lie behind materialism. For he knows, as we should all know, that a person without worldly goods can be just as materialistic as a person who has many of them; and conversely, a rich person can be quite free from this and any other form of worldliness. John is actually thinking of selfish ambition, pride, the love of success or flattery, and other such

characteristics. Law recognizes this in his excellent rephrasing of the apostle's appeal. He writes "Do not court the intimacy and the favour of the unchristian world around you; do not take its customs for your laws, nor adopt its ideals, nor covet its prizes, nor seek fellowship with its life." The NEB says, "Do not set your hearts on the godless world or anything in it."

"We are not to court its favours, not to follow its customs, not to adopt its maxims, not to covet its prizes," Charles Erdman.

Yet, it's one of the most common problems in the church today. God's people. God's church!

But note, John makes it clear that love for the world and love for God are mutually exclusive, vs. 15b.

"You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit of God has placed within us is filled with envy?" James 4:4.

Jesus said, "You can't serve two masters." "You can't serve God and mammon."

So, you can't love God and the world!

Verse 15, "*the love of the Father is not in him.*" So don't be its friend or conformed to it, Romans 12.

2. Because of what the world does, vs. 16. A worldly attitude, leads to worldly actions.

a. Lust of the flesh- "The passions of our sinful fallen nature." The body's drive is not sinful. Such as food, drink, sleep, sex, but the world has perverted sex.

b. Lust of the eyes- the possession of things. "Thou shalt not covet...." keeping up with the Joneses. Illus.: Achan's lusting for the "goodly Babylonish garment." "The shopping malls." Illus.: David and Bathsheba. Danger of T.V. and movies.

c. Pride of life- your "position" or "place." It's vainglory relating to one's external circumstances, whether wealth or rank or dress. It's the desire to shine or outshine others in luxurious living. You think you are superior to others. It's a allowing what I desire, what I see, and my pride to control my life.

3. Because of where the world is going, vs. 17.

a. “The world is passing away; and the lust of it,” vs. 17. “The world and its lust, and its darkness is already disintegrating.”

So don't set your affections on it!

“Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.” James 5:1-13 & Rev.

All that is seen is temporal.

b. “But, he that does the will of God abides forever,” vs. 17.

Ps. 73. Illus.: 4th of July fireworks.

How do we win the war against worldliness?

1. Romans 12
2. Verse 14, the Word of God.
3. Live by faith. Hebrews 11:36, “Others.” Illus.: a tent & an altar.