

LIVING RIGHTLY REGARDING SATAN'S WORLD SYSTEM 1 John 2:15-17

INTRODUCTION

1. Current events demonstrate Satan's world system in full view.
2. What is happening in our world is more than merely political, sociological, and ideological wars.
3. We are in the midst of a fierce spiritual war that engages God's Kingdom and the world system of which Satan is the ruler.
4. Some might say that the Church is becoming more political when, in fact, politics are becoming more theological (Josh Macpherson).
 - Redefining marriage
 - Erasing gender
 - Reframing abortion as reproductive rights
 - Indoctrinate and groom kids regarding sexual perversion
 - Injustice of a judicial system that wrongly imprisons innocent people
 - Restricting God-given rights of freedom and to worship and obey God
5. Behind all of this is the World of which Satan is the ruler.
6. In our text today, John will provide insight into this World (system) and our biblical response to it.

MESSAGE THEME: *Living with discernment and certainty in understanding Satan's world system and our subsequent response.*

REVIEW

1. John is correcting errors regarding Jesus Christ and authentic life in God.
2. He declared that *God is light* and there *is no darkness in Him* whatsoever.
3. You can be assured that you are in fellowship with God and His life if you *obey His commands* and *love others* who are in fellowship with Him.
4. Last week, we looked at the development of spiritual maturation (spiritual children, young adults, and fathers and mothers) and the significance of a *vibrant Christian community*.

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORLD

1 John 2:15–17 (NASB 2020) Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.

Understanding "World"

- It is interesting that the very same Apostle John tells us in **John 3:16** that God *loved* the world. Now he commands the Christian to *not love* the world.
- *What does the command to not love the world really mean?*

- “World” can mean:
 - that which God created **Psa. 19:1-6**, (the planet with all its systems)
 - people who inhabit the creation **Jn 3:16-17**.
 - the system that stands in aggressive opposition to God, the system under Satan’s control that is intrinsically opposed to God with an aggressive hostility against Him and His truth. **1 John 5:19; John 12:31; 14:30 (Burge p 114-115)**

Defintion

The “world” in our current text is an organized and complex scheme of values and ideologies that are orchestrated by Satan and empowered by evil through societal structures. This scheme persistently ignores and rejects God while at the same time aggressively attacking the truths, values, and person of God and all associated with Him.

1 John 5:19 (ESV) *We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

- The world is the realm of **darkness** in contrast to the realm of **light**, the realm of **evil** versus the realm of **righteousness**, the realm of **death** instead of the realm of **life**, the realm of **lies** instead of **truth**, the realm of **deception** instead of **honesty**.
- *Therefore, to “not love” the world is to reject the system that rules this world, that ignores, rejects, and attacks God, His truths, values, and person. (Th p 68-69)*
- **This “world system” permeates our life context and all its structures.**
 - **It governs the political arena, education, media, entertainment, military, business and corporations, and money and finance.**
- **The world is always out to cause ruin, death, and destruction to God’s kingdom, God’s ways, and God’s people.**
- Right now, we are amid a vicious war, a spiritual war; it is a war to the death, physically and spiritually.
 - *The enemy is relentlessly vicious and cruel, deceptive and cunning.*

The Command Concerning the World vs. 15

1 John 2:15 (ESV) *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

The Command

Do not love the world.

- Love: *agapeo* – to give care for, loyalty towards, take pleasure in, to promote.
- We say it is a command because of the “present imperative tense” of the sentence. It is a command with a continuous state of responsibility. (**St p 103**)
- The Christian must continue to fight battles and the enemy is the world, Satan’s system and kingdom.

Reason #1 to Not Love the World

- Love for the world system and God is incompatible.
- *If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him. vs. 15b*
- Love for the world and God is mutually exclusive.

John 15:18–19 (ESV) *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

James 4:4 *You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

- The world has a *hate relationship* with God and therefore you if you are in fellowship with God.
 - Remember, the world is not inanimate, but instead personal. Satan is the ruler of the world.

Three Characteristics of the “World” vs. 16

1 John 2:16 (NASB 2020) *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

- *Worldliness* cannot be neatly packaged into certain behaviors that one is to avoid. However, it can be characterized, and John does.

Lusts of The Flesh

- epithymia: lust, passion, desire, craving. (amoral; it is good or evil based on the context)
- sarx: *flesh* – desires that are shaped by the “world” principle and absent of God’s life, truth and value systems.
 - These desires seek to gratify outside of God’s design and will.
 - Mankind, not God, is the center and measure of the universe.

EXAMPLES:

- Materialism: the pursuit of, and gratification through things. This is done outside of how the things will honor and glorify God, and God being the center of life.
- Sexual Permissiveness: Pursuing sexual satisfaction outside of God’s design.
- Pursuit for Success and Prosperity: Prestige and power for one’s own glory and benefit instead of God’s purposes.
- ***The “lust of the flesh” has its free operation in the realm or sphere of the world. It is where the devil rules and the lust of the flesh is uninhibited.***
- How much of society is driven by “lust of the flesh?” Advertisements, how people find their significance, satisfaction, and entertainment, how people spend their time.

The Lust of The Eyes

- The source of lust or craving in the previous description was the gratification of one's fleshiness outside of God's design and will.
- This further develops the arena of fulfilling sinful desires that violate God.
 - Where the first assaults from within, the second assaults from without, through our eyes.
- This description finds its source in the eyes. Desires from what the eyes see.
 - greed, covetousness, envy
 - Eve with the fruit, **Gen 3:6**; David and Bathsheba, **I Sam. 11:2**.

The Pride of Life

- This is a pride of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. It is trusting in oneself versus living in dependence on God.
- This is the sin of preeminence and prominence.
- The object of one's boasting in oneself and one's basic stuff of living.
- Boastful pride is that of a *braggart*. An arrogance related to wealth, rank, or prosperity.

Reason #2 to Not Love the World vs. 17

1 John 2:17 (NASB 2020) *The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.*

- The second reason for not setting our love on the *world* is that this world is passing away, and therefore it lusts.
 - Those who put their trust in earthly possessions and commit their energies, resources, and rewards to these worldly gratifications in futility.
 - Those who find their gratification in fulfilling the cravings of our fleshiness and satisfying the desires our eyes look upon will devote themselves to fulfilling that desire.
- Those who pursue governing their lives by God will abide or exist forever.

APPLICATION

Your Worldview – It's Critical

- Into the World, but Not of the World.

John 17:15–18 (ESV) I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

- Worldview Defined: *A worldview is how we view the world with a comprehensive understanding and definition of reality, which directs how we live our lives.*
- Simply speaking, a worldview is how we see and interpret the world, resulting in how we live our lives.
- We now find ourselves in a cosmic struggle between Christian truth and a an

aggressive, morally indifferent culture.

- A worldview is an all-consuming way of life, applicable to all spheres of life.
- **Our worldview helps us grapple with questions such as:**
 - *Who am I, how did I get here, and why do I exist?*
 - *To whom or what do I ultimately answer?*
 - *How am I to understand and value life?*
 - *What comprises reality?*
 - *How do I determine right and wrong?*
 - *How do I look at life and death?*
 - **What are the parameters** of morality?
 - *What is a family?*
 - *Gender and sexual orientation and identity?*
 - *Work?*
 - *Politics?*
 - *Culture?*
- Satan wants to win the worldview war!
 - He wants his doctrines, deceptions, values, ideologies, and life practices to prevail.
- This explains Paul's command in Romans 12:2

Romans 12:2 (NASB 2020) *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

- The Christian life, or being a disciple of Jesus Christ, requires a transformation of worldview.
- There are fundamentally two worldviews: God's, a biblical worldview, and Satan's, that of the world (within those two, there are subsets).
- Whether Satan can succeed in his worldview being comprehensively sustained or effective in strategically incidental moments with long-term ramifications, he does it through the *lust of the flesh*, the *lust of the eyes*, and the *pride of life*.

ILLUST.: **Adam and Eve** knew God's worldview; Satan presented to them his and successfully enticed them through the *lust of the flesh*, *lust of the eyes*, and *pride of life*. (**Genesis 3:6**) Very Cunning – Very Successful; Resulting in Death & Ruin.

- *She [Eve] saw the tree was good for food* (lust of the flesh)
- *It was pleasant to the eyes* (lust of the eyes)
- *A tree desirable to make one wise* (pride of life)
- **Love not the world is so much bigger than preaching against illicit sexual satisfaction, comfort & luxury, and position & power; he desires to influence your entire life through your worldview.**
- **Satan wants his worldview or world system to prevail in:**
 - your spiritual life and mine,
 - your understanding of God and mine,

- your life and mine,
- your mind and mine,
- your values and mine,
- your marriage and mine,
- your family and mine,
- **your morality and mine,**
- your relationships and mine,
- your education and mine,
- your finances and mine,
- your political posture and mine,
- your understanding of your talents, gifts, and time,
- Because, if he can, his world system will influence our decisions, how we live our lives, and how we live in generational patterns.

Your Worldview – It's a War

- ***The World System is Hostile.***
- Its values, political agendas, educational systems, social ethics, entertainment, and media values aggressively oppose God and His people.
- Too many Christians allow themselves to be influenced by the world system because they do not understand its inherent dangers.
 - There must be a defined boundary.
- ***The World System is Vicious.* 1 Peter 5:8**
- There is a boundary that exists between life in God and the life promoted by Satan in and through his world system.
- We are to discern worldly wisdom from Godly wisdom, pursuits of the world from pursuits of God's kingdom and righteousness, motivations and passions of the world from motivations and passions toward God, conduct that reflects the person and heart of God from that of the world system.
- The Church and individual Christians are increasingly taking on the morals and values of the world system.
- There must be distinct lines of demarcation between world system values and God's values.
- Christians must battle the invasion of the World in our lives, families, education, and churches.
- Instead of living in light of eternity, too many of us live for the immediacy of this temporal world.
 - It is passing away, yet where do we invest ourselves, our resources, our possessions, our giftings and callings?
 - God's kingdom is eternal; the world will one day be defeated and no more!

Living in Discernment and Certainty in an Uncertain World requires recognizing Satan's world system and living with a biblical response.

the epistle of
1 JOHN

LIVING IN DISCERNMENT AND CERTAINTY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

1

1 JOHN

MESSAGE THEME – *Living with discernment and certainty by recognizing Satan’s world system and living with a biblical response.*

2

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THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORLD **1 JOHN**

Understanding “World”

- that which God created - Psa. 19:1-6.
- people who inhabit the creation – John 3:16-17.
- ordered system that opposes God – 1 John 2:15.

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DEFINITION **1 JOHN**

The “world” in our current text is an organized and complex scheme of values and ideologies that are orchestrated by Satan and empowered by evil through societal structures. This scheme persistently ignores and rejects God while at the same time aggressively attacking the truths, values, and person of God and all associated with Him.

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Lust of the Flesh

Lust of the Eyes

Pride of Life

Reason #2 to Not Love the World

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- *What is a family?*
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- *Work?*
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- *Culture?*

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Romans 12:2 (NASB 2020) *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

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Adam and Eve Illustration:

- *She [Eve] saw the tree was good for food – (lust of the flesh)*
- *It was pleasant to the eyes – (lust of the eyes)*
- *A tree desirable to make one wise – (pride of life)*

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- your understanding of God and mine,
- your life and mine,
- your mind and mine,
- your values and mine,
- your family and mine,
- your government and mine.

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- your education and mine,
- your finances and mine,
- your political posture and mine,
- your understanding of your talents, gifts, and time,

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