

Message 8 in the Series: Just So You Know

Message: ID PROTECTION

Text: 1 John 2:15-17

Those who are in Christ have a new identification as the children of God. Our sins have been forgiven; we know the heavenly Father; we have become strong by the word of God which abides in us, and we have become overcomers of the evil one.

At times we must remind ourselves who and what we are in Christ. We must always present our identity to the world, **confessing with our lips the faith within our hearts**; and when the enemy comes to tempt us, we must show our identity to him. As James writes, we must “Submit to God, and resist the devil,” and he will flee. Peter adds, “Resist him, steadfast in the faith.”

As we continue forward through John’s epistle, we are warned, by way of a command, to guard our hearts from going after the world or the things in the world. We must protect our identity as God’s children. We must not lose our way going after the things of the world. As God’s children, our love and faithful devotion are to the Father and to Him alone.

We are commanded to love God with all our heart; to serve no other god(s) beside Him; to worship Him and Him alone.

To love God is to Love His Son, Jesus Christ: **John 16:27 (NASB)** “For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.”

Listen to the words of Jesus: **Matthew 10:37 (NASB)** “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

God desires all our heart, love, and devotion.

1 John 2:15-17 (NASB) ¹⁵ 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 its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

“Do not love the world” > the term “world” used here by John is similar to Paul’s use of the term in Ephesians 2 where he describes “the course of this world” which is under the influence of the prince of the power of the air – better known as, the devil.

Ephesians 2:3 (NASB) “Among them, we too, all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind.”

Paul describes the way of life for those living in the sphere of the enemy’s domain as living in the lusts of the flesh, the desires of the flesh, and the desires of the mind. Similarly, John describes the “things of the world” as: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.

If we love these things, there can be no love for God within us. Love for God and love for the world is exclusive. One cannot love both.

James 4:4 “Friendship of the world is enmity with God” – James uses the term “adulterers” in reference to those who love the world.

Matthew 6:24 “You cannot serve God and money” (Jesus Christ)

To love God is to love Him fully. To love God is to do His will. He called us, chose us, and saved us out of the world and placed us in His kingdom, His family, and His church. This is who we are, this is our identity; we are God’s children – God’s chosen people.

To trust and obey the Lord (to do His will) protects our spiritual Identity from the “Things of The World”, such as, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.

1. The Lust of the Flesh

The appetites of the flesh serve as a base of operation for the enemy of the soul. The things of the world make there appeal to the flesh, and, if or when, sinful lust is indulged, it leads to corruption. The soul and the flesh are constantly engaged in battle.

1 Peter 2:11 (NASB) “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.” (we are aliens and strangers to the world – our identity is in Christ)

2. The Lust of the Eyes

Trusting God will always protect you from what you can’t see. The things of the world appear (on the surface) to be good for us, however, what we can’t see is the destructive consequences.

Let’s consider the history of temptation.

Genesis 3:6 (NASB) “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate.”

The things of the world conceal their destructive consequences, but God, who loves us, gives His revealing light. To trust and obey the Lord (to do His will) protects us from the hidden dangers of sin.

3. The Boastful Pride of Life

The word “pride” is translated from the Greek word al-ad-zon-i'-a. The alazón is a braggart. One who is self-centered, thinking highly of their self. An *alazón* shows off that which he thinks or pretends he possesses. Complete Word Study Dictionary, The - New Testament.

Self-sufficiency is the evil deception that replaces God with self.

James 4:13-16 (NASB) ¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.”

¹⁴ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

¹⁵ Instead, *you ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

¹⁶ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

John reasons with us, reminding us that, “The world is passing away” along with its lusts; The world is deteriorating (perishing) but the one who does the will of God lives forever: the one who trusts and obeys the Lord inherits eternal life. We will not perish but have everlasting life!!!

Who wants to identify with the world? As Jesus Himself reasons, “What will you give in exchange for your soul?”

Guard your heart. Set your affections on things above. Love God! Trust Him! Serve Him! Worship Him! His will provides identity protection for our soul!