

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

JoLynn Gower
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493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org



WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- ▶ **1 John 2:15-17** 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. 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. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
- ▶ World: *kosmos*: the order of things here on earth
- ▶ Love: *agape*: to put another's best interest first

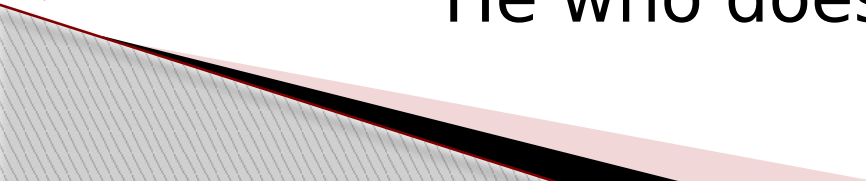
CHRISTIANS SHOULD NEVER PUT THE WORLD'S
INTERESTS AHEAD OF GOD AND HIS

INTERESTS

LEVELS OF UNDERSTANDING

- ▶ **1 John 2:12-13** I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.
- ▶ In any group of believers, there will be people at various learning and maturity levels
- ▶ Their spiritual struggles are very different
- ▶ **1 John 2:15** 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.

WHAT WE DO

- ▶ THE LUST OF THE FLESH – preoccupation with gratifying physical desires
 - ▶ THE LUST OF THE EYES – craving and accumulating things; bowing down to god of Op;[
 - ▶ THE BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE – obsession with status or performance
 - ▶ By contrast, God values self-control, a spirit of generosity, and a commitment to humble service
 - ▶ It is possible to love sinners and spend time with them while maintaining a commitment to the values of God's kingdom
 - ▶ He who does the will of God lives forever
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THE DEVIL'S MODUS OPERANDI

- ▶ Creating love of the world rather than love of God
- ▶ Love: *agape*: to put the best interest of someone first
- ▶ **Matthew 22:36-40** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."
- ▶ The scribes who asked the question of Jesus were probably expecting Him to expound on the Law –their version which contained 613 divisions

NO TRAPPING JESUS

- ▶ **Matthew 22:41-46** Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question:

"What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "*The son of David.*"

He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET"'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

WHAT JESUS SAID

- ▶ **1 John 2:16-17** 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. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
- ▶ Temptation of Eve: good for food; good to look at; desirable to make one wise
- ▶ Temptation of Jesus: stones to bread; all the kingdoms you can see; angels will catch you
- ▶ World: *kosmos*: the world and its stuff (adornment)

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

THE ANTICHRIST

- ▶ **1 John 2:18-19** Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.
- ▶ Antichrist: *antichristos*: against Christ or instead of Christ
- ▶ Many people stand against Christ, empowered by the devil
- ▶ At the end of the age, one man in particular receives such an empowerment; he is

THE ANTICHRIST

- ▶ **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.
- ▶ **Daniel 9:27** "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

ANTICHRIST EMPOWERMENT

- ▶ **Revelation 13:1** And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads; on his horns *were* ten diadems; on his heads *were* blasphemous names.
- ▶ **Daniel 7:7-8** "After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it;

INTERPRETATION

- ▶ **Daniel 7:23-25** "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.
- ▶ **Revelation 17:11-13** "The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is *one* of the seven, and he goes to destruction. The ten horns

THE GREAT SEPARATION

- ▶ **1 John 2:19-21** They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.
- ▶ If a church is teaching the truth and people leave because of that, we understand that they are not walking with God
- ▶ **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

INSEPARABLE

- ▶ **1 John 2:22-23** Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.
- ▶ John was specifically addressing the Jewish people who denied the Son and the Judaizers who tried to make keeping the OT Law foundational for Christians
- ▶ Because Jesus and the Father are inseparable parts of a triune godhead, to fail to know one of them is a failure to know the other
- ▶ **1 John 2:24** As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

WHEN HE COMES

- ▶ **Luke 21:25-28** "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
- ▶ **Matthew 26:64** Jesus said to him, "You have said it *yourself*; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

WHEN HE COMES...

- ▶ **1 John 2:28-29** Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.
- ▶ **Mark 8:38** "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."
- ▶ **Hebrews 11:16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore