

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

SO YOU MAY KNOW MESSAGE SERIES WEEK 3

1 John 2:3-17

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Because our actions speak louder than words...

A. Don't be a hypocrite. (1 John 2:3-6)

“John is not referring to faultless obedience, but to a new trajectory of life that springs from the radical transformation of having been born again (cf. 3:9). John is also not saying that our obedience merits or earns God’s love (he has already established Christ’s propitiating sacrifice as the basis for our salvation; see 2:1-2), but rather that those who have God’s love show it, and this evidence of a life transformed by him is critical assurance of being united to him.”

The ESV Gospel Transformation Bible, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2013, p. 1708.

Is it obvious to others I am a follower of Jesus?

B. Don't hate. (1 John 2:7-11)

“Love is not new. It is as old as God (1 John 4:8) and rooted in the law. Yet it is new to us in conversion and new in its depth in Jesus. It is new in experience, emphasis, expression, and endurance. It is old as the sun and new as the dawn.”

Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in 1, 2, & 3 John*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2014, p. 32.

Is there hatred or resentment in my heart?

C. **Don't love the world.** (1 John 2:15-17)

When John said “world,” he was not speaking of the earth but of the world systems on the earth—an ordered system or worldview under the authority of Satan. (1 John 5:19; John 12:31, 14:30)

“Worldliness or ‘being of the world’ is often misunderstood. Often it is identified with cultural issues that are of a particular concern to us. John is not telling us to reject any and all aspects of culture, much of which reflects the glory, goodness, and gifts of God. What he is telling us is we are not to love and idolize thoughts, values, and behaviors that are contrary to God’s Word.”

Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in 1, 2, & 3 John*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2014, pp. 39-40.

- Desires of the flesh—refers to cravings, lust, or passions
- Desires of the eyes—we see and want more; materialism
- Pride of life—glory in career, achievements, social standing, and possessions

“Someone has said, ‘worldliness is present when things make us lose our joy. When the coming or going of things causes our true joy to cease, we have become worldly.’”

Theodore H. Epp, *Tests of Life*, The Good News Broadcasting Association, Back to the Bible, Lincoln, NE, 1957, p. 40.

Do my attitudes and actions reflect the world’s values or God’s?

Things of the World	Things of the Father
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus is on me. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus is on God.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make as much money as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give as much money as possible, and spend even yourself on others.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live comfortably. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life is not about comfort, but about doing hard things now so that we can reap rewards in the life to come.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a name for yourself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make His name great.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do whatever makes you happiest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do whatever makes God happiest.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach your children to love themselves and seek self-fulfillment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach your children to love and obey God. (“Behaving” is often, but not always, a blessed by-product.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look like a model in a magazine and turn your physical appearance into an idol. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, and cultivate an inner beauty.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer “acts of service” when you feel like it (on your terms). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a servant, even when it is uncomfortable or inconvenient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay married as long as your spouse meets your needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve your spouse (the way Christ modeled servanthood), and choose to love him or her for life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come across as powerful, influential, and/or interesting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give preference to others in words and actions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use (worldly) wisdom to accrue wealth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value true wisdom (which is the fear of God) over all the treasures on earth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date with the fashions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be content just to have.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The things of the world are passing away. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The things of the Father will abide forever.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do the will of the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do the will of the Father.

Conclusion: Those who truly know God will keep God's commands, love others, and love God.

"...these evidences of the Christian life become tests whereby we can know whether or not we have eternal life. John tells us that the Christ-life within the believer will express itself in a certain way, and this in turn becomes a means of identifying the true believer."

Theodore H. Epp, *Tests of Life*, The Good News Broadcasting Association, Back to the Bible, Lincoln, NE, 1957, p. 9.

Discussion Question:

If someone loves the world more than God, what should they do?