

OUR GREATEST THREAT

Sunday, July 18, 2021 -- 1st JOHN series -- Msg 12 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1st JOHN 2:15-17

English Standard Version (ESV)

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

*12 I am writing to you, **little children**,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

*13 I am writing to you, **fathers**,
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I am writing to you, **young men**,
because you have overcome the evil one.*

*I write to you, **children**,
because you know the Father.*

*14 I write to you, **fathers**,
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I write to you, **young men**,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.*

15 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. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Remember that in this section, the Apostle John focuses on God's LOVE COMMANDMENT amidst a sinful world where darkness and the evil one seem to dominate.

It is easy to lose sight of the basics of knowing the God who is love.

see 1 John 4:8 *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

This section has multiple functions for us:

- it is a reminder of things that God has always said to us. vs 7-11
Love God and Love Others! (Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:34-40)
Failure to love either of these means you don't know God.
- it is an encouragement for us not to lose heart amidst much opposition. vs 13-14
- it is a correction of what we are to love and desire in this life vs 16
- it is a warning that we could be self-deceived vs 17

15 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. **16** For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. **17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

“Do not love the world” -- this is our greatest threat.

-- ‘love’ refers to having affection and devotion to something

-- which ‘world’ ?? Greek word is ‘*cosmos*’

world = planet earth and the universe

world = planet earth and its people (John 3:16)

world = specifically ‘lost’ people (those who have not been saved)

world = the fallen, sinful, temporal actions, values and obsessions of lost people

That which is fleshly. vs 16

That which is not from God. vs 16

That which is temporary. vs 17

But there are two different ways to talk about ‘loving the world’...

-- you can have a love for the lost that prays and works for their redemption.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...*

-- you can have a love for the lost that approves and joins them in their evil.

Romans 1:32 *they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them*

Psalms 50:16-21

How do you know if you love something?

- Do you think about it?
- Do you talk about it?
- Do you get excited about it?
- Do you obsess over it?
- Do you sacrifice for it?
- Do you defend it?
- Do you return to it?
- Do you learn about it?
- Do you work for/at/on it?
- Do you allow it to control you?
- Do you privately hoard it or you may proudly share it?

FLESHLY FOOLISHNESS should be rejected.

SINFUL VICES should be exposed.

PERSONAL HOBBIES should be evaluated.

COMMON PITFALLS should be tweaked.

Based on the above behaviors, what are the things that others would say that you love?

What ETERNAL THINGS occupy your mind, heart, resources and time?

What TEMPORAL THINGS occupy your mind, heart, resources and time?

How much? How does your investment in each of these compare?

15 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. **16** For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. **17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

CONCERNING the SINFUL THINGS of this WORLD:

COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

1 *If then* you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, **not on things that are on earth**. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death therefore **what is earthly** in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming. **7** In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. **11** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; **but Christ is all, and in all**.

CONCERNING the NON-SINFUL THINGS of this WORLD:

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, **20** for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Do you have a HELPFUL HOBBY/INTEREST or a SINFUL HOBBY/INTEREST?

- 1) Does it cause your heart to exalt God or yourself or the world?
- 2) Does it refresh and edify you or does it deplete and empty you?
(spiritually, physically and emotionally)
- 3) Does it point others to Christ?

Our GREATEST CONCERN/INTEREST should be the worship and love of God.

Westminster Confession:

Question 1: “What is the chief end of man?”

Answer 1: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

**Only one life will soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ shall last.**