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STOP LOVING THE WORLD!

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN
NUMBER 10
1 JOHN 2:15

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1 JOHN 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

I approach this verse with much trepidation because "worldliness" is one of the most misunderstood expressions in our language. All of your life you have heard "So and so is a very worldly person" and then you formed your own opinion as to what worldliness means. Every person in this room is included in this study, for either you have called someone worldly or you have been called worldly by someone else. It may be that you have been tied down with responsibility and have had your nose to the proverbial "grindstone," and when you saw someone else as free as a bird, your reaction was to call them worldly.

A Bad Misunderstanding

Please remember this--no one ever gave you the right to call another person worldly. People you usually call worldly are the recipients of unjust treatment from jealous friends. To keep from misunderstanding worldliness, we need to know exactly what the term worldliness means. Worldliness comes from the greek word kosmos, which means the organized universe. That's where we get our english word "cosmetics." A woman uses cosmetics for organizing her face.

Satan's Kingdom

Kosmos is actually a title for the kingdom of the world ruled by Satan. Satan is the ruler of this world and he has things organized rather well. However, Satan is failing in his job to win the struggle in the Angelic Conflict and this causes him to resort to all kinds of deception and fraud. Even though there is widespread evil in the world and even though many governments and nations set themselves up in opposition to God, we are safe in saying that God will win the Angelic Conflict and "The Kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever." Rev. 11:15. The kosmos is the system of thought set up in the earth by Satan to deceive men and to lead them away from God. The kosmos is a system of thought contrary to Bible Doctrine. It is everything that opposed God in the Angelic Conflict. In his thinking the Devil is always anti-Christ. In doctrine Satan seeks to obscure the plan of God and he has many ways by which he seeks to do this. Some of his methods are religious and some are political. These systems are called cosmic evil as distinguished from human good. Satan sponsors great programs of internationalism and do-good systems like war on poverty and world peace and programs to help the down-trodden. In other words today the World Council of Churches sponsors just about everything that the Devil stands for. All of these things make up the kosmos.

Be Sure To Know Your Terms

Therefore, if you call someone "worldly" be sure that you know what you are talking about. You really mean they are people who have adopted Satan's methods for doing good in the world. They believe in all kinds of social action programs, internationalism and the like. You see, this is exactly word for word the way the Kremlin thinks.

Communism has adopted in toto the kosmos as their program. Now how does a believer in Christ come to think like Satan thinks? Well, he adopts this worldly view. This is a part of the kosmos. All the way from the long haired hippie to the most sophisticated Communist in a high government position, this is the kosmos and this is worldliness. Worldliness is something you think.

How do you avoid loving the world?

The way to do this is very simple. You must take the Word of God line by line, doctrine by doctrine into your mind. As the truth of the Word of God flows into your mind, the kosmos deception is pushed out. God has so designed your soul that when you take in doctrinal truth, you can win the war against the kosmos and against Satan's falsehoods. You must have positive volition toward the truth and this is what we call faith. Faith is a non-meritorious system of perception and this is the way truth is transferred from your soul into your human spirit and stored for future use. The Bible was given to us for this very reason. Truth in the mind is what the greek calls gnosis, but once this truth is transferred into the human spirit it is called epignosis and this is the only doctrine you can use in your daily living. For doctrine to advance from gnosis to epignosis you have to believe it and store it in the human spirit and then you have a deposit whereby you combat worldliness. Intellectual perception is good to a point, but truth must be transferred into the human spirit and then it become epignosis.

EPHESIANS 4:12-13 "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

EPHESIANS 4:15-16 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

If one goes negative toward doctrine then scar tissue is built up on the soul and a vacuum is created and in flows the kosmos which we call darkness. Worldliness is what you think. It is a system of Satanic thinking. Worldliness is satanic doctrine which flows into the vacuum of the soul. This vacuum is created by the lack of Bible Doctrine. This is exactly what happened in Europe in the middle ages. The Bible was no longer authority and humanism became the accepted philosophy. This vacuum in Europe was filled with cosmic thinking. Worldliness actually erects a pseudo edification complex in the soul.

A Shallow Misconception

Please don't be so ignorant that you associate having a good time at a party with worldliness. Worldliness is not going to a honky tonk, if you know what I mean. It is vastly more than that. Worldliness is the whole cosmic evil program of Satan, his philosophy and his way of thinking. Worldliness is something you think rather than what you do.

1 JOHN 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

"Love not" is a present, active, imperative of agapao so it means "Stop loving the world." This is an imperative and it means to stop doing something that you are already doing. Please notice that this worldliness is in their minds. These were baby Christians, carnal believers, and they were out of fellowship. They had a mental attitude love toward the kosmos. These people had been described in verses 1 and 12 and 13 and 18 and 28 as "my little children" and that term means baby Christians, untrained believers. They are called peidea and in verse 26 they are said to be seduced by the world. So worldliness is a state of mind. These are people who have believed in Christ but they have kept in their minds satanic doctrine. The great battlefield is the mind, and Satan never gives over that arena without a battle. Satan is determined to capture the minds of believers and thereby neutralize Bible Doctrine and divine viewpoint. Satan knows that there is but one thing that will confound him in the life of the believer and that is an erected edification complex. This is one power with which Satan cannot contend. It is a death blow to Satan every time. Therefore when we are talking about stop loving the world, we are talking about the Angelic Conflict.

Look at Romans 12:2. "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." This is exactly the same thing stated in another way "Stop loving the world" and "Stop being conformed to the world" are exactly the same. Paul says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." So worldliness is a combination of human good, cosmic wisdom and cosmic evil. There are many dupes in the world who say they are not Communists, they just agree with what the Communists are doing in the world. According to this definition we have many "worldly" professors in universities in this country and they are for the overthrow of the government by revolution. Their basic problem is they have adopted the kosmos way of thinking and as far as the actual results are concerned, they might as well be openly aligned with the Communists of Russia or Red China. Their basic problem is scar tissue on the soul.

THE DOCTRINE OF SCAR TISSUE ON THE SOUL

1. The soul has lungs for breathing.
EPHESIANS 4:23 "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind:"
 The greek actually says, "And receive restoration in the breathing of your mind." The soul has lungs.
2. The soul has two lungs--left and right lobes.
 In the soul is self-consciousness, mentality, volition, conscience, emotion and the old sin nature. (The old sin nature is that part of the soul that God did not create. Man, with a strong assist from Satan, created the old sin nature.)
 So there is an inhale and an exhale in the soul. The inhale is for taking doctrine into the mind, and the exhale is for expressing our faith toward God.
3. The left and right lobes of the soul are designed for fellowship.
 The right lobe of the soul is designed for fellowship with man, and the left lobe is designed for fellowship with God. We breathe out faith toward God.

4. Scar tissue is built on the soul by means of negative volition toward Bible Doctrine.
EPHESIANS 4:17 "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,"
In this verse the word translated vacuum is mataiotes or vanity. Now there is no such thing as a believer being demon possessed, but a believer can be demon influenced. The Devil comes in through this vanity, this vacuum, this mataiotes and infiltrates the life of the believer.
5. Scar tissue is built in the soul in two ways.
They come from mental attitude sins and from overt sins. The mental attitude way is spoken of in 1 John 2:9 and 1 John 2:11.
1 JOHN 2:9 "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now."
1 JOHN 2:11 "But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."
The overt way is spoken of in Proverbs 6:32 and Ephesians 4:19, 5:3.
PROVERBS 6:32 "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul."
EPHESIANS 4:19 "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."
EPHESIANS 5:3 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;
Love for the brethren means to be absent of mental attitude sins toward them. (Remember you can love people from afar and this is the best way to love a lot of people.) Please notice that in Scripture we are not told to phileo all believers. We are told to agapao them and this is a mental attitude love. So worldliness is what you think. A relaxed mental attitude is the way to drive the kosmos out.
6. All scar tissue is removed from the soul when the unbeliever becomes a believer.
This is one of the many things that God does for us at the point of salvation.
ISAIAH 43:25 "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."
ISAIAH 44:22 "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee."
But to keep this state in tact, the believer must constantly use 1 John 1:9 and must take in truth every day. If this is not done then scar tissue is rebuilt in the soul.

7. Scar tissue can completely fill the soul.
For an unbeliever like Judas, scar tissue completely obscured any vision he might have had of Jesus Christ as Saviour. For believers like Ananias and Sapphira, it led them to the sin unto death. 1 John 5:16 "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it." This verse is the sin unto death. The sin unto death doesn't mean you have lost your salvation. It is the maximum punishment God can give to a believer.

8. The antithesis of scar tissue in the soul is the edification complex.
Scar tissue can make you a spiritual moron. An edification complex in the soul can make you a mature believer.

We will take up "The things of the world" in our next study.