

**Introduction:**

- Last Sunday: **God is Love** from a macro view: Ie. The big fire works.
  - He commands us to love Him and each other
  - Love is what we owe all people
  - Faith expresses itself through love
  - The true mark of a christian is love
  - Love is what we should always aim for
- All of the apostles wrote about the love of God because they all experienced it. But of all the early apostles, the two who wrote the most were John the apostle and Paul the apostle.
  - John could never seem to get away from the love of God! Oh that God would do that work in us in this hour. John was so close to Jesus. Of the three disciples that were close to Jesus, John was very close! In fact, in John 20:2 John calls himself *'the disciple whom Jesus loved.'* This is why we direct new Christians to the Gospel of John...it is filled with so much love.
  - Paul experienced the love of Jesus at a whole other level. He saw Jesus at a time when his heart was filled with pride, hate and murder....and Jesus had mercy on him! He being in such a deep dark sin filled place saw, heard and received the loved God! He who knew he did not deserve love received love from Jesus that he would never forget and always tell of.
- Our text for this morning is: *"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. 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. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."* (1 John 2:15-17, ESV)
- \*\*\*Everything that hinders love must be removed.\*\*\*

**I. Everything That Hinders Love Must Be Removed**

- A. Don't love the world or the things in it. Do not agape the world.
1. This is a warning to the church, the ekklesia. Their spiritual status is unquestioned.
    - a) It reminds me of (1 Cor 10:12, ESV) *"Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall."*
    - b) John finds it necessary to warn the church, of that which could ruin their fellowship with God and land them in spiritual destruction.
  2. World means more to John here than the God created world. Not everything in the world has its origin with God. Therefore we must walk aware. Ie. situational awareness.
    - a) *"We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."* (1 John 5:19, ESV)
    - b) *"Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out."* (John 12:31, ESV)
    - c) For the believer we live in the tension of being born again, walking in light free from sin yet living a fallen world, subject to its temptations that would pull us away from God and into sin.
- B. The two dangers of the world.

1. World is the source of opposition to God and to believers. "Worldliness" means "disobedience to God's rule of life," Marshall, I. H. (1978). *The Epistles of John* (p. 143). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
  2. "Love of the world is the pleasure which the person hopes to get from the object of his love. To love, in this sense, is to be attracted by something and to want to enjoy it; the thought is of appetite and desire." Marshall, I. H. (1978). *The Epistles of John* (p. 143). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
  3. Love for the world and love of the Father are incompatible. James 4:4 says that love for the world is hatred toward God.
- C. John gives us three things we must recognize and throw out because they hinder love:
1. Desires of the flesh
  2. Desires of the eyes
  3. The pride of life.

## II. Remove What Hinders Love

- A. From the Word:
1. Be responsible for yourself. *"And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."* (1 John 3:3, ESV)
  2. Extra weight hinders the runner, the hiker and the soldier. *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,"* (Hebrews 12:1, ESV)
  3. Get every obstacle out of the way so the River can flow. *"And it shall be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way.""* (Isaiah 57:14, ESV)
- B. Angels that gather.
1. While praying I kept hearing that phrase. Mt 13:30
  2. Went to get Roland Bucks book Angels on Assignment.
  3. Grabbed Paul Keith Davis book, Angels that Gather.
    - a) They gather tares - get them out of my heart. Let everything that hinders love be removed.
    - b) God will let the tares blossom so that we can recognize what needs to be removed from our lives.
    - c) The enemy has sown these things! God wants to remove them so we can be greater vessels of His love.

### Conclusion:

- Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, the pride of life. All must go!
- They hinder love therefore John says they must be removed so that we can love God and love others well.