

11 - 1 John 2:15-17 - 2018-07-01

1 John 2:15-17 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 lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. (17) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17 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. (16) For all that is in the world, the **lust [G1939 *epithumia*]** of the flesh, and the **lust [G1939 *epithumia*]** of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the **lust [G1939 *epithumia* - singular]** thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Call to Worship: Psalm 139:14

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: "The Lust of the World in Three Parts" 1 John 2:15-17

Benediction: Philippians 4:20

INTRODUCTION

Isn't it true of you, that deep inside you, where the Holy Spirit has regenerated you, granted you the new birth, worked saving faith and repentance unto life, that you love God and love other people? Yet always in your flesh, you are tempted to all kinds of sin, indicating lack of love for God and other people.

Part of the good news the bible teaches us is that, having sanctified us initially in Jesus Christ our Savior, setting us apart as holy unto Himself, God now continues that good work of sanctification, and carry it on to completion all the way to the day our Lord Jesus comes back, when it will be entirely accomplished. He is pruning us, so we will grow how He would have us grow, and so we will bear much fruit. He is transforming us, by the renewing of our minds. He is working in us to put to death the flesh, that we may walk by the Spirit. He is working in us all the time to make us love Him and love our neighbor.

He is doing this primarily by His Holy Spirit working in us by His Word, the scriptures, the bible.

The Lord teaches us that all matters of righteousness and sin are essentially love toward God or hatred toward him, lack of love for Him.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

One of the provisions in the scripture for our sanctification is the way the Lord commands us what we are to do and not to do, setting those commands in the context of love. over against hatred or lack of love, in different ways of categorizing things.

One of these being the explanation that love can be considered in two categories

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Another of these being the explanation that love can be considered in ten categories

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All the law consists of more detail than the Ten Commandments, but certainly we are right in understanding from what He said that the Ten Commandments show love and hatred, love and lack of love, in ten categories.

Learning about love in those ten categories can be very helpful in sanctification.

Another, but perhaps less well known way in which the scriptures show us different categories of love or hatred comes in 1 John 2. We'll take that up today, and see how our Lord teaches us about love, and lack of love, not in two categories or in ten, but in three.

TEXT

1 John 2:15-17

BODY

- I. See That This Passage Is Talking About Love Over Against Hatred or Lack of Love (15)
 - A. The Lord commands us not to love the world, neither the things in the world
 - B. The Lord explains that if a man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him
 - C. The Lord equates love for the world with lack of the love of God the Father; more specifically, love for the lust of the world
 - D. We can count on the fact that this doctrine, written to us by our Lord's apostle John, is useful for sanctification, as we learn it, and as the Holy Spirit uses it to work in us; so let's learn it, and pray for that work to be done

- II. See How This Passage Shows Hatred or Lack of Love Divided into Three Categories
 - A. Three aspects to the world's lust; that is, three aspects to love for the world, which equates to lack of love for God
 1. The lust of the flesh
 2. The lust of the eye

3. The pride of life
 - B. We know this divine analysis of lust or covetousness is to aid us in sanctification, because it comes as part of the exhortation, "Do not love the world or the things in the world."
 1. our dear Lord Jesus knows how sorely and how often we are tempted to love the world and the things in the world
 2. but the will of God for our sanctification is that we not love the world
 3. it is great love and great wisdom that both commands us not to love the world and explains that love for the things in the world in three categories, so we can understand it better and so resist it better
- III. See This Three-fold Love for the World in Satan's Temptation of Adam and Eve - Genesis 3
- A. Three aspects to Adam and Eve's covetousness - Genesis 3:6
 1. Good for food
 2. Pleasant to the eyes
 3. To be desired to make one wise
 - B. Let us make some observations about this
 1. the sin is not in the object desired
 - a) there is nothing inherently evil about the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
 2. the sin is not in the basic desire
 - a) the desire to eat good food, or in other ways partake of things that are pleasurable to the body
 - b) the desire to look at something beautiful; to have nice things and delight in them
 - c) the desire to gain wisdom; to gain a higher place and the honor that goes with it
 3. the sin comes when we desire what God has not ordained for us to have
 - a) not what rightfully belongs to someone else
 - b) not what He has expressly forbidden
 - c) not what is in excess
 - d) not what He has never authorized
 4. temptation tells you that the wholesomeness of the basic desire makes the desire okay
 - a) nothing that feels this good could be bad
 5. temptation tells you that the basic goodness of the object makes the desire for it okay
 - a) the fruit is good to eat
 - b) the fruit is pleasing to look at
 - c) the fruit will elevate me to a higher position, with greater benefits, greater honor
 - C. Adam and Eve succumbed to this temptation

1. Eve first
2. Adam, also, who was with her
3. all of us in Adam

IV. See It in Satan's Temptation of Our Lord Jesus - Luke 4

- A. Three aspects to the devil's temptation of our Lord Jesus
 1. Stone to bread (3-4)
 2. The kingdoms of the world (5-8)
 3. The pinnacle of the temple (9-12)
- B. The Lord answered each temptation with God's law
- C. The Lord Jesus did not succumb to temptation in any of these aspects of covetousness
 1. because He did not, He did not deserve death, as did Adam and Eve, and as do we
 2. when He died on the cross, it was not for
 - a) the lust of His flesh, but of ours
 - b) the lust of His eyes, but of ours
 - c) His pride, but ours
- D. Since our Lord Jesus did not commit the sin of Adam in any of these three ways, He qualified to serve as a second Adam, a new Adam
 1. all who are considered in Adam must die for their three-fold sin
 2. all who are considered in Christ may live by His three-fold righteousness
 3. He explained this in terms of the bronze serpent
 - a) Israel sinned, and was bitten by snakes
 - b) God provided a bronze snake to be held up
 - c) the Lord Jesus said that as the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so is He

V. Think of It in Your Own Struggle with Sin

- A. Unlike the case of Adam and Eve, and the case of our Lord Jesus, the temptation does not have to come from the devil personally, because the sin is right in your own flesh
- B. When you are tempted, you will do well to remember other ways of understanding the temptation
 1. lack of love for God
 2. lack of love either for God directly or for men
 3. breaking of one of the Ten Commandments, which all hang on love for God and love for your neighbor
- C. When you are tempted, remember that it is temptation to love the world instead of God, the three-fold lust of the world
 1. lust of the flesh
 2. lust of the eye
 3. the pride of life

CONCLUSION

Look to Jesus Christ the righteous! Who answered every temptation to the world's lusts with the scriptures, specifically God's law.

Look to Jesus Christ crucified! He died for our sins---how can we live in them any longer!

1 John 2:15-17 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. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

James 4:1-4 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? (2) You lust [G1937 *epithumeo*] and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (4) Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world [G2889 *kosmos*] makes himself an enemy of God.

Romans 13:13-14 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. (14) But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

rioting and drunkenness

NKJV: revelry and drunkenness

ESV: orgies and drunkenness

chambering and wantonness

NKJV: lewdness and lust

ESV: sexual immorality and sensuality

strife and envying

NKJV: strife and envy

ESV: quarreling and jealousy

the lust [ESV desires] of the flesh

see “Vices Chart”

Cotton:

such as are stirred up by the flesh and promise our bodies comfort

It is a corrupt inclination by which our bodies seek sensual lusts and sensual objects; as meat and drink, which is intemperance; or women, which is incontinence; or pastimes and pleasures, which is voluptuousness.

Candlish:

the appetite of sense out of order, or in excess . . . gluttony, drunkenness, uncleanness . . . the ball, the theater, the gaming table

Calvin:

see Romans 13:14

flesh in this place = the body and all that belongs to it

when worldly men, seeking to live softly and delicately, are intent only on their own advantages

Poole:

more grossly sensual: gluttony, drunkenness, whoredom

see Romans 13:13-14

JFB:

[on Gal 5:19] This passage shows that “the flesh” does not mean merely sensuality, as opposed to spirituality: for “divisions” in the catalogue here do not flow from sensuality. The identification of “the natural (Greek, ‘animal-souled’) man,” with the “carnal” or fleshly man (1Co_2:14), shows that “the flesh” expresses *human nature as estranged from God*.

- I. All righteousness is love; all sin is hatred or lack of love
 - A. categorized

- 1. love toward God
 - 2. love toward our neighbor
 - B. normally both of those are stated affirmatively
 - 1. love the Lord your God
 - 2. love your neighbor
 - C. can also be stated negatively
 - D. there is overlap between the categories
- II. All righteousness is conformity to God's law, obedience to it; all sin is want of conformity, lack of obedience to it
 - A. categorized in ten commandments
 - B. most stated in the negative
 - C. some stated in the affirmative
 - D. there is overlap among the categories
- III. The categories themselves are interrelated, as seen in how our Lord Jesus taught us that all the commandments hang on the two great commandments regarding love
- IV. So, we see help for us in dealing with sin by a categorizing righteousness and sin into two categories, and into ten categories

The Lord also provides us three categories of lust or covetousness

Having shown us that all righteousness is love, and all unrighteousness is hatred, or lack of love.

Having shown us that all righteousness is obedience to God's law, and all unrighteousness is disobedience, or lack of conformity to God's law

The Lord shows us that all hatred or lack of love toward God and men comes love for the world, specifically for the lust or covetousness of the world.

Prelude: Grace 99 "Jesus, Your Name"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet

Anna: piano 1

Sarah: piano 2

Trinity 533 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Camille: piano 1

Noah: direct

Anna: sing

Sarah: piano 2

Trinity 34 Psalm 139

Camille: piano 1

Noah: trumpet

Anna: clarinet

Sarah: sing

Grace 130 "O Spirit, Now We Thank You"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet

Anna: clarinet

Sarah: piano 1

Trinity 647 "Jesus Loves Even Me"

Camille: sing

Noah: sing

Anna: piano 1

Sarah: sing

Prelude: Grace 99 "Jesus, Your Name"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet - see attached in B (I hope you like sharps!)

Anna: piano 1

Sarah: piano 2

Trinity 533 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Camille: piano 1

Noah: direct

Anna: sing

Sarah: piano 2 (I hope you'll give it a try!)

Trinity 34 Psalm 139

Camille: piano 1 - see attached in Eb

Noah: trumpet - in F from hymnal

Anna: clarinet - in F from hymnal

Sarah: piano 2 - see attached in Eb with chord symbols :)

Grace 130 "O Spirit, Now We Thank You"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet - see attached in F

Anna: clarinet - see attached in F

Sarah: piano 1

Trinity 647 "Jesus Loves Even Me"

Camille: sing

Noah: sing

Anna: piano 1

Sarah: sing