

The Benefits of Loving God: Unadulterated Love

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. NKJV

Two young people meet and fall deeply in love. He courts her and soon they have begun on what seems to be a happy ever after life. He spends his time and money to bring her happiness and joy. You never see them apart. They are joined in an indissoluble relationship.

Then one day another young lady comes into the picture. She has set her eye on this young man. She flirts and talks and shows way too much interest in a married man. She is easily more outwardly attractive and fun than his wife. She invites him places where he has never been before. Innocently enough at first but then he begins to hide this new relationship. And finally he no longer spends his time and affection, his money and his heart on his faithful wife but on this new, more exciting girl. He knows that it is wrong. No one needs to tell him that he is getting into dangerous territory. But he can't seem to help himself. And the more that he compares the two women now in his life this new one seems to outshine the one he pledged himself to many years ago.

He tries to keep his now two lives separate. But it is at last impossible. The new threatens the old. And even though his new life seems to have the spark that the old one has now lost, yet he knows that it can never last and never survive as his marriage has. The new woman is fun but shallow. She knows how to have a good time but is irresponsible. Was he going to be unfaithful to his wife with this woman that he was sure would someday also prove unfaithful to him?

In the old Testament God describes how He chose the Jewish people and made them a great nation and blessed them with a land flowing with milk and honey. He tells how He loved them and they loved Him in return. But later on we find the nation of Israel forsaking their God for another god that was not even real. She forsook the true God for an artificial one. And then God withdrew His blessings. He sent their own lovers to destroy her. All for the reason of their unfaithfulness.

When we come to the New Testament Paul describes the new people that God has chosen to be His. He says that they were on the slave block of sin and God paid the price for their freedom. Then He lavished on them very special promises and gifts. He blesses them with His own Spirit and gives them a special revelation in His word. Yet He finds it necessary to warn them. So through His apostles He warns them to not love the world, or the things that are in the world. He tells them that that amounts to an adulterated love. A love that will only lead to sorrow and despair. He warns them that the world only offers to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, the eyes and the pride of life. All those things are of the world and not from God, our heavenly father.

But how do we remain faithful to God. The world has so much to offer. It glitters and promises to satisfy our longings for excitement and pride. It flirts with us by promising to satisfy the fleshly

desires that we all have. All the while telling us that we can have God and the world too. And those who believe that lie find out the hard way a life with brokenness and despair. For the world only wants us for the ride and not for life, and surely not forever.

I. Do Not Love the World or the Things in the World.

A. Seems to be a simple command

1. But we live in the world and it flirts with us every day.
2. We must use the things in the world but must not abuse those things.
3. 1 Cor 7:31 use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away. NKJV

B. It has to do with attention and affection.

1. Ask any married person if they like it when their spouse starts paying too much attention to another person of the opposite sex.
2. Everyone knows when they have stepped over the line.
3. Can't we have the same discretion when it come to the world.
4. We must be careful that our love for anything does not challenge our love for God.

II. If Anyone Loves the World, the Love of the Father Is Not in Him.

A. Having an ardent love for God will keep us from this.

1. Great relationships tend to keep one safe.
2. The story of the man in an elevator in Vegas.
3. When Potiphar's wife offered herself to Joseph in Egypt, it was his relationship with God that came to his mind.
4. When Daniel and his three friends were offered the most delicious food, it was their relationship with God that prevented them from eating.

B. Someone who has given themselves over to love the world.

C. This not a condition of salvation as some would think but an indicator of our relationship.

D. Jesus said that where our treasure is that is there our heart will be.

1. If a person treasures money then that is where their heart is.
2. If a person treasures boating, car racing, new cars or a million other things then that is where their heart is.
3. You can tell where a person's heart is for it is the last thing they will let go

of.

III. For All That Is in the World Is Not of the Father but Is of the World.

A. The Lust of the Flesh

1. These are the same three things that tempt us all.
2. In Eve's case in the garden.
 - a. She saw the fruit that is was desirable, lust of the flesh.
 - b. She saw that the fruit was pleasant to the eyes.
 - c. She believed that the fruit would make her wise, the pride of life
3. In Jesus' case in the wilderness.
4. Every temptation comes under one of these three headings.
5. We must always ask ourselves are we indulging in excess to satisfy our fleshly desires far beyond need to the measure of excess.

B. The Lust of the Eyes

1. Do we find ourselves overly concerned with those things that look good.
2. Would you drive a rusty car if you knew that it would never fail you.
3. None of us want to be ashamed of what we wear or how we look to others.
4. But do we need to have those things that will wow others.

C. And the Pride of Life

1. The sin that inspired Satan.
2. Over and over again God tells us that he hates it when people are proud.
3. Pride comes before destruction.

IV. And the World Is Passing Away

A. This world system is not going to last

1. All that the world holds dear is only temporary.
2. When a Christian doesn't realize this it is like a person getting off a sinking ship into a life boat but then tying the life boat to the sinking ship

B. And the lust of it

1. The desires for these things.
2. The things that the world hold a valuable.

3. They are only trinkets to draw our attention away from what is important.
 4. Spurgeon once printed a tract about a butcher leading hogs to the slaughter and them willingly following.
 5. When a closer look was taken it was discovered that the butcher used a few kernels of corn to persuade them on.
 6. Satan uses the trinkets of this world to lead them all to destruction.
- C. But he who does the will of God abides forever
1. Is there a difference?
 2. Yes there is an eternal difference.