

Session 4: Do We Practice What We Preach?

The Life In Which There Is No Future...

Two (2) Things John Has to Say About Those Who Love the World and Who Compromise With It:

1. There Are Three (3) Sins Which Are Typical of the World:

➤ ***Flesh's Desire...***

Meaning far more than sins of the flesh (sexual sin). In the New Testament, "the flesh" is that part of our nature which, when it is without the grace of Jesus Christ, offers a point of entry for sin. It includes not only the sins of the flesh....

But also all worldly ambitions and selfish aims.

Remember—The flesh's desire is heedless of the commandments of God, the judgment of God, the standards of God, and the very existence of God.

➤ ***Eye's Desire...***

"The tendency to be captivated by outward show."

It is the spirit which can see nothing without wishing to acquire it and which, having acquired it, flaunts it....the spirit which believes that happiness is to be found in the things that money can buy and the eye can see.

➤ ***Life's Empty pride...***

The tendency to lay claim to possessions and to achievements which did not belong to him in order to exalt himself.

John sees the above as men and women of the world who judge everything by their own appetite and who boast of their treasures and pleasures...and even some that they don't have.

2. 2nd Warning...Those That Attach Themselves to the World's Aims and the World's Ways Are Giving Their Lives to Things Which Literally Have No Future.

<i>Remember...the people of this world are doomed to disappointment; the people of God are assured of lasting joy.</i>

THE TRUTH OF THE ABOVE SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY IS FOUND IN THIS SUMMARY:

LIVE CONTINUALLY IN CHRIST...

IF WE HAVE LIVED CONSCIOUSLY IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST, IF DAY BY DAY WE HAVE TALKED AND WALKED WITH GOD, THAT WILL BE A SUMMONS TO COME HOME AND TO ENTER INTO THE NEARER PRESENCE OF ONE WHO IS NOT A STRANGER BUT A FRIEND.

PROOF THAT A PERSON IS ABIDING IN CHRIST IS BY THE OF THEIR LIVES. DECLARATIONS OF FAITH AND LOYALTY WILL ALWAYS BE PROVED OR DISPROVED BY PRACTICE.

The Question is.... Do We Practice What We Preach?

1 John 3:1-2, *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*

John reminds us of what a privilege it is to be called “the children of God.”

Names are important: Parents give names to children...and then to let them know how important that name is. To uphold that name and not to put that name to shame. How much more....should we not put the name of Christ to shame. We should hold fast to the fact that we represent Christ...and what He stands for...what he died for. John wanted us to remember that “this life is only the beginning.”

Now is the time to live for Him....because we shall be like Him at His appearance.

John 3:3-8, *“All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”*

This passage is directed against the Gnostic false teachers.

They justified sin...

They said...and were telling the people in the Church:

- *That the body was evil and that, therefore, there was no harm in satisfying its lusts to the full, because what happened to it was of no importance.*
- *Truly spiritual people were protected to such an extent by the Spirit that they could sin to their hearts’ content and come to no harm.*
- *There was an obligation on true Gnostics both to scale the heights and to plumb the depths so that they might be truly said to know all things.*

John’s reaction to the Gnostics Philosophy.

- **John begins by insisting that no one is above the moral law.**
- **Certain basic truths about sin.**

John tells us:

- **What Sin Is.**
Sin is to obey oneself rather than to obey God.
- **What Sin Does.**
It undoes the work of Christ. Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). To sin is to bring back what he came into the world to abolish.
- **Why Sin Is.**
Comes from the failure to abide in Christ. As long as we remember the continual presence of Jesus, we will not sin; it is when we forget that presence that we sin.

- **Where Sin Comes From.**

It comes from the devil (Satan); and the devil is the one who sins, as it were, on principle. We sin for the pleasure that we think it will bring to us; the devil sins as a matter of principle. In the world there is a power hostile to God, and to sin is to obey that power instead of God.

- **How Sin Is Conquered.**

It is conquered because Jesus Christ destroyed the works of the devil.

He has broken the power of evil, and by His help that same victory can be ours.

1 John 3:9, “No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.”

Take at face value, this means that it is impossible for anyone who is born of God to sin.

John has already said, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” 1 John 1:8

“If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him (God) a liar...and he urges us to confess our sins (1 John 1:10).

Not contradicting...He is thinking about the present age and the age to come.

John depicts four (4) stages.

- (1) The ideal is that, in the new age, sin is gone forever.*
- (2) Christians must try to make that true and, with the help of Christ, struggle to avoid individual acts of sin.*
- (3) All Christians have lapses...and, when we do sin, we must humbly confess them to God, who will always forgive the penitent heart.*
- (4) Christians cannot be deliberate and consistent sinners; Christians cannot live a life in which sin dominates their actions.*

John is demanding a life which is always on the watch against sin, a life in which sin is not the normal accepted way but the abnormal moment of defeat.

Remember, we are more than conquerors in Christ. Live like it!