# The Book of 1 John Lesson 11

1 John 2:15

“Another Commandment of Love”

Introduction: One of the identifiable marks of assurance will be that there is forward movement and progress and spiritual development in the Christian life. To make a profession of faith and living a period of life or entire life without any movement as a Christian is foreign to the Bible. When the life of God lives in a born again person, there should be some identifiable spiritual progress. If we are going to experience forward movement as a believer, then we must understand that our relationship to the world is directly affected by our relationship to our Heavenly Father.

Knowing God as your Father in salvation sends you into a completely different relationship to the world.

I. Love not the World.

A. This is a commandment of love.

1. We have this commandment because of God’s love for us.

a. It is given to us from God from His immeasurable love.

b. It is for our benefit that we receive and obey it.

2. If we are true to the Father, then it may appear at times that believers should be opposed to everything in the world.

a. The reason it seems that way is that there is so much out there that is related to a system of thought to which we have no relation.

1) The devil stresses the negative and always looks past the positive.

2) People hear a preacher denounce worldly things and sins and they only hear the “don’ts”

b. Like in the Garden of Eden.

1) God only told Adam and Eve not to touch one tree

2) The devil made it sound cruel to Eve

3) God beheld the trees that He had made and they were very good and they could freely eat of all others.

4) Satan never pointed out to Eve all the good fruit, just the one she could not eat of

B. What is meant by “the world?”

1. He does not mean this inhabited planet.

a. God’s Word says that the Heavens declare His glory.

b. God’s people ought to enjoy the physical creation because God intended it for good.

Genesis 1:31 *“And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.”*

2. Not a reference to the world of humanity.

a. He is not saying not to love mankind.

b. John 3:16 is referring to sinners who need a Savior, God loves all people.

3. He is not talking about the order of man in this world.

a. The order established by man in the through government.

b. The plan for Christian growth in church.

Transition: So if God is not telling us to hate the obvious things we’ve mentioned, what specifically is John talking about?

II. He is talking about the corruption that the people of this world embrace.

A. Love not the system established by man that casts off the authority of God.

1. A system of man in rebellion to the Word of God.

2. The way of a world that rejects the authority of God.

a. The order of things (God first)

b. The attitude of living for self.

3. An attitude contrary to God’s revelation.

B. Do not seek the favor of the unchristian world around you.

1. Don’t take its customs for your laws.

2. Don’t adopt its ideals or covet its prizes.

C. There is a sinful system that governs the world’s way of life.

1. There is a practice that rejects God’s moral standards.

2. There is a rejection of the revelation of God’s Word.

a. They want nothing to do with the Bible.

b. They want nothing to do with the 10 Commandments.

c. They ignore the restraints commanded by God.

d. The whole world wants to live according to what is right in their own eyes, they say “follow your heart.”

D. We live in a world that is dominated by a system of belief that is contrary to God.

1. If the Word of God shapes your thinking you recognize it.

2. If your attitude towards life is from God’s Word, then you understand that this world is anti-God.

a. The world controls politics.

1) Christians should vote.

2) They should vote based upon Biblical truths.

3) The political system is governed by worldly thinkers.

b. Entertainment is controlled by the world.

1) It is not governed by the Word of God.

2) It glamorizes its sinful pleasures to the exclusion of God’s standards.

c. Business is controlled by the world.

1) There are some godly men who try to work the principles of the Bible.

2) As a whole it is governed by a worldly philosophy.

d. The media is controlled by this world.

e. The Educational system is controlled by this world.

f. The fashion industry is controlled by worldly thought.

1) Motivated by the desire to enhance sex appeal.

2) Do not encourage modesty, rather sexual exposure.

3) Not designed by someone desiring to be holy, godly or decent.

4) A style that accentuate the physical parts of a man or a woman is of the world.

5) If a style compromises decency or modesty it is of the world.

g. Standards for marriage are set by the world.

h. The financial industry is controlled by the world.

i. The world controls most religious and church trends.

1) People do not want to hear about holy living and separation.

2) Don’t want to hear about Hell and judgment.

3) Tell you to feel what is going on out there and go.

3. Most believers look at the whole picture and don’t see any use in fighting for truth.

a. They hear some good things about God.

b. They see the big crowds and think God is blessing it.

III. (Romans 12:1-2) Be not conformed to this world.

A. It does not matter what is popular.

1. What does the Bible have to say on the issues?

2. Are there any standards set for us in God’s Word?

B. We should approach holy things in a different manner than we approach things of the world.

1. If we profess a walk with Jesus Christ.

2. If we claim to be advancing in our Christian life.

C. If you are true to the gospel, you forsake the world.

1. If you love the world, you forsake the gospel.

2. Being true to the gospel, you will not live like the world.

a. You cannot go two different directions at the same time.

b. How can a person claim to love God and yet have no desire to be in God’s house regularly?

3. The whole system of this world is wicked and evil.

a. It rejects God’s law from His Word.

b. It rejects ethical standards.

c. It rejects holy living before a holy God.

d. It rejects Sermon on the Mount living for discipleship.

IV. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.

A. Not referring to salvation.

1. Previous verses tell us who He is writing to.

2. Little Children, Fathers and Young Men.

a. those whose sins have been forgiven

b. those whom he has just assured of their salvation.

B. It means that obviously while you love the world, you do not love the Father.

1. It does not matter what you say, you do not love the Father.

2. While you are in love with this present system that rejects God, you do not love the Father.

a. You cannot say you love God but not be interested in:

1) Holiness, worship, devotion...

2) Commitment to God.

3) Surrender to Jesus as Master.

4) Soulwinning & evangelizing.

5) Faithfulness to His house and service

b. You love your hobbies, your styles of fashion, your job, your career, your family time.

3. You love one or the other, but cannot love both.

C. If we love with a sincere love, it is evident by a surrender to His authority.

1. If you love me, keep my commandments.

a. Not “give me hand clap of praise”

b. Not “raise your hands and sway”

2. John 14:21 – He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.

3. John 14:23 – If a man love me, he will keep my words; he that loveth me not, keepeth not my sayings.

4. Matt 6:24 – No man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other.

a. You cannot serve God and the material things of this world

b. You can serve God and possess material things.

D. Where is your affection?

1. Where do you spend your energies?

2. Where are your resources spent?

Conclusion: God is aware of the corrupt nature of the world that surrounds us. He also knows that our corrupt flesh is drawn to the world by its nature. The way that the Lord has made for us to overcome the world is through Him. Through the truth of His word, through the strengthening and guidance of His Holy Spirit. This must be part of our Christian life as a whole.