

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Your Friendly Enemy

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 2:15-17

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2107

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) As Christians, the Lord fills our hearts with love, but we are not to love everything.
 - i) There are some things that we cannot, as a child of God, truly love.
 - ii) We cannot truly love without hating some things.
 - (1) Psalm 97:10
 - (2) Romans 12:9
 - (a) This means don't have hypocritical love; let love be not hypocritical.
 - (b) We cannot cleave to that which is good without abhorring that which is evil.
- b) We cannot love the Lord without hating evil.
 - i) We see this in the natural world.
 - (1) If you love health, then you're going to hate disease.
 - (2) If you love peace, then you're going to hate war.
 - (3) If you love cleanliness, then you're going to hate filth.
 - (4) If you love people, then you're going to hate sin.
 - (5) If you love life, then you're going to hate death and killing.
- c) 1 John 2:15-17
 - i) The Bible tells us that we are not to love the world.
 - (1) We have an enemy, and that enemy is the world.
 - ii) What does this passage mean when it says that we are not to love the world?
 - (1) It is not talking about the planet Earth.
 - (a) There is nothing wrong with loving this planet, which God has made.
 - (b) When God made creation, He called it good.
 - (i) Genesis 1:31
 - (ii) Luke 12:27
 - (c) He made it, and we ought to enjoy it.
 - (2) It is not talking about the world of people.
 - (a) We're to love people of every race.
 - (b) There's to be no prejudice or hatred of any person.
 - (c) Whether they are saved or lost, we're to love all people.
 - (d) John 3:16
 - (i) If God loves the peoples of this world, then we're to love the peoples of this world.
 - (3) The word "world" in this passage in 1 John 2 is the Greek word "cosmos," which means "a system or an order of things."
 - (a) It is a way of doing things.
 - (b) For instance, we speak today about the world of finance or the world of fashion.
 - (4) There is a system that we are not to love; an ungodly, devilish system that is set against our Lord and His Christ.
 - (a) Although that world may be friendly to us, it is a friendly enemy.

- d) Today's message will share what the Bible has to say about the world, why we're not to love that world, and what the consequences are for following and loving the world.

2) THE CHARACTER OF THE WORLD (1 JOHN 2:15)

a) 1 John 2:15

b) The world has a prince.

i) The devil is the prince of this world.

ii) John 12:31

(1) This passage is speaking of the cross that would break Satan's back.

(2) "This world" refers to this system.

iii) John 14:30

(1) Jesus is speaking of the devil in this verse.

iv) John 16:11

(1) In this passage, the Lord Jesus is speaking of the devil's final judgment.

(2) Satan sails a sinking ship and rules a doomed domain.

v) 1 John 5:19

(1) The whole world is being cradled in the hands of Satan, the dark prince.

vi) There is a mastermind behind this world system.

(1) His name is Satan, and he has a whole system of people who work beneath him.

(a) Ephesians 6:12

(2) He has a myriad of underlings who do his bidding.

c) The world has a philosophy.

i) There is a networking of ideas and values that are skillfully woven together to entrap the most innocent.

ii) 1 Corinthians 3:19

(1) The world is wise, but it is wise to do evil.

iii) The world's philosophy extends from the schoolhouse to the statehouse.

iv) This philosophy appears in recreational theme parks.

v) It may seem innocent and beautiful, and it is often alluring.

d) The world has a purpose.

i) Its purpose is to draw us away from God.

ii) The world is against the Lord Jesus Christ.

iii) John 7:7

(1) The world hates Jesus.

(a) It doesn't hate Jesus because He healed the sick or blessed the children or because of the miracles He performed.

(b) The world doesn't hate Jesus because He died on the cross.

(2) The world hates Jesus because He testifies that its works are evil.

(a) Today's world tells us that we are to be tolerant of everything.

(b) It is a sin today to call sin "sin."

iv) John 14:17

- (1) “Shall be in you” refers to the Holy Spirit coming to represent the Lord Jesus.
- v) John 15:18
- vi) James 4:4
 - (1) A person who is a friend to this world that hates Jesus is an enemy of God and a traitor to Jesus Christ, who was crucified by this world.
- vii) This world purposes to draw away our hearts and seduce us from loving the Lord Jesus Christ as we ought.
- viii) John 15:19
 - (1) We sometimes use the term “worldly Christian,” but that is a contradiction in terms.
- ix) It is often difficult to tell the difference today between those who name the name of Jesus and those who don’t.
 - (1) They look alike, talk alike and go to the same places.
 - (2) But we are to come out of the world.
- e) The world has a people.
 - i) Luke 16:8
 - ii) When we get saved, we come out of the world and are different.
 - (1) We are twice-born people in a world of once-born people, and we will be swimming against the tide all the time.
 - (2) What we have, what we know and what we believe start at a different source, follow a different course and are headed toward a different conclusion.
 - (3) We are not part of this world system.
 - iii) 1 John 2:15
 - iv) Romans 12:2
 - (1) The devil’s purpose is to conform us.
 - (a) The world wants to squeeze us into its mold.
 - (i) It doesn’t want us to be different.
 - (ii) It wants us to follow its prince and believe its philosophies.
 - (iii) It wants us to join its purpose and be a part of its people.

3) THE CORRUPTION OF THE WORLD (1 JOHN 2:16)

- a) 1 John 2:16
- b) The character of the world shows us what it is; the corruption of the world shows us what it does.
- c) This world that would seduce us from loving the Lord Jesus has three main appeals:
 - i) The lust of the flesh
 - (1) 1 John 2:16
 - (2) This is Satan’s appeal to our old nature.
 - (3) “The flesh” in 1 John 2:16 refers to our old, Adamic nature.
 - (4) The flesh is what we received from our first birth; the Spirit is what we receive from our second birth.

- (a) Galatians 5:17
- (b) When we are saved, a civil war begins on the inside:
 - (i) Our new nature wants to serve God.
 - (ii) The old nature doesn't want to die.
- (5) The Bible calls the old nature "the lust of the flesh."
 - (a) These are desires primarily in the area of the material, the physical.
 - (i) Gluttony, laziness, drunkenness, immorality, perversion, etc.
 - (b) God has given us certain normal hungers.
 - (c) Satan wants to take normal, God-given proclivities and appetites and corrupt them and pervert them.
- (6) Sin is primarily an abuse of something that is good; a misuse of good things.
 - (a) Good things are bad things when they are out of place.
 - (i) Matthew 6:33
 - (b) God will not take second place.
 - (c) The world tells us to pamper and satisfy our flesh.
- (7) This deals with our passions.
- ii) The lust of the eyes
 - (1) 1 John 2:16
 - (2) This deals with our possessions.
 - (3) The lust of the flesh deals with doing; the lust of the eyes deals with having.
 - (4) This is the desire not merely to have and to own things (which is a legitimate desire), but to want more than we need and to be dissatisfied.
 - (5) 1 Timothy 6:10
 - (a) This verse does not say that money itself is the root of all evil.
 - (6) What really motivates you?
 - (a) Is the priority of your life to be a godly person, or are you trying to be a successful person?
 - (b) Are you more consumed with material things than spiritual things?
 - (c) Have you tried to put God in second place when the Bible says to seek first the kingdom of God?
 - (i) Matthew 6:33
 - (d) Are you more concerned about your child's success or his godly character?
 - (e) Is there any material possession you would not depart with for the glory of God?
- iii) The pride of life
 - (1) 1 John 2:16
 - (2) This deals with being; it deals with position.
 - (3) The world tells us to be somebody and to make a name for ourselves.
 - (4) This is why many young couples get into difficulty.

- (a) They're buying things they don't need with money they don't have to impress people they don't like.
 - (5) This is the reason people gossip.
 - (a) They think that if they pull others down that they will somehow elevate themselves.
 - d) This world system is not new.
 - i) It was in the Garden of Eden.
 - (1) Genesis 3:6
 - (2) Satan said that the food was good for the taste (the tree was good for food).
 - (a) This deals with their passions.
 - (3) "It was pleasant to the eyes."
 - (a) This is their possession.
 - (4) It's "desired to make one wise."
 - (a) This deals with position.
 - ii) Hebrews 4:15
 - (1) Jesus was tempted in all points as we are.
 - (a) Matthew 4:3
 - (i) This was a temptation to satisfy the flesh.
 - (ii) This deals with our passions; it deals with doing.
 - (b) Matthew 4:8-9
 - (i) This deals with having; this deals with possessions.
 - (c) Matthew 4:6
 - (i) This deals with position.
 - 1. Be somebody important, do some magical thing, make a dramatic entrance.
 - iii) The devil works on us today in these same three areas of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.
 - e) Every temptation is a perversion of something that is good.
 - i) The devil is a liar and a pervert.
 - f) God wants us to be in the business of doing, of having and of being the right way.
 - i) If you want something to do, serve God.
 - ii) If you want something to have, give your heart to Jesus.
 - (1) Matthew 5:5
 - iii) If you want to be somebody, give your heart to Jesus.
 - (1) You will be a child of the King.
 - iv) Doing, having and being are found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4) THE CONDEMNATION OF THE WORLD (1 JOHN 2:17)
- a) We're not to love the world because of its condemnation, where it is headed.
 - b) 1 John 2:17
 - i) There is one sure thing about this world system:
 - (1) It will not be here forever; it is passing away.

- ii) Only that which is in the will of God will abide forever.
- c) We should ask ourselves what is more important to us:
 - i) The pleasures of the flesh or the joys of the Spirit?
 - ii) That which is seen or that which is unseen?
 - iii) The praise of man or the glory of God?
 - iv) That which is temporal or that which is eternal?
- d) If we are living for the world, then we are painting decks on a sinking ship.
 - i) This world is passing away.
 - ii) Decay will take away all of the toys and trinkets that we have.
- e) John 16:11
 - i) Satan sails a sinking ship and rules a doomed domain.
- f) Those who live for Jesus in this world know what life is all about.
 - i) We're just pilgrims on this Earth.
 - ii) Soon the trumpet will sound, and we'll be caught up to meet the Lord.
 - iii) 1 John 2:17

5) CONCLUSION

- a) 1 John 2:15
 - i) Those who love the world do so because that is all they have to love.
 - ii) With Jesus Christ, we are satisfied.
- b) The devil is a counterfeiter, and this world will never satisfy your heart.
- c) You were made to serve God.
- d) If anyone loves the world, it is simply because the love of the Father is not in him.
 - i) The love of the Father is Jesus Christ.
- e) 1 John 5:4
 - i) Put your faith where God has put your sins: on Jesus.
- f) Let the love of the Father come into your heart.
 - i) You will have joy unspeakable and full of glory.
 - (1) 1 Peter 1:8
 - ii) You will abide forever when this old Earth with its system is gone.
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16