

Series: "LOVE LETTER from JOHN"

For Message: 1 John 2:12-17

Message Title: "What NOT to Love"

Introduction: Welcome to BMZ CHURCH! Glad you're here as we CONTINUE our WORSHIP SERIES called: "**LOVE LETTER from JOHN**"! This is a SUMMER Bible Study to help us continue to GROW in our FAITH, so we are ENCOURAGED to SHARE it with OTHERS. When we are FOCUSED on God's WORD, we are LESS DISTRACTED by the THINK/GS of THIS WORLD.

John wants us to experience REAL LIFE, according to JESUS ... WHAT we are CREATED to EXPERIENCE! FELLOWSHIP with OTHERS, GOD, and JESUS. JOY may be FULL and OVERFLOWING. Meaningful and DEEP PURPOSE.

Last week we talked about LOVE ... AGAPE LOVE being the NEW COMMAND that is NOT REALLY NEW, but it DOES have a NEW PLACE in our FAITH ... IT IS PRIORITY. We LOVE according to JESUS' COMMAND and JESUS MODEL! THAT is the STRATEGY for INTRODUCING OURSELVES and the WORLD to REAL, ETERNAL LIFE in JESUS.

Well, THAT'S GODLY LOVE. THEN John WARNS of a WRONG KIND of LOVE ... that GOD HATES. We SEE in the BIBLE that **GOD HATES our LOVE for the WORLD.**

THIS WEEK ... JOHN gives CLEAR WARNING (not a threat) for WHAT to DO and NOT to DO as we GO AFTER the "REAL LIFE" OFFERED by CHRIST. HEADS UP: we will NEED to THINK. We can NOT LA-LA our WAY THROUGH THESE VERSES. AND ... WE will NOT get through ALL the MATERIAL THIS WEEK. It's a TWO PARTER!

EXPAND? Pastor INSIDER...

Now, The NT WORD for "**WORLD**" has THREE different MEANINGS. 1) There is the **PLANET WORLD**, which is NOT a PROBLEM or to BE HATED ... God created this world and all that is in it. 2) There is the **HUMAN WORLD**, which is also NOT to be HATED. In FACT, God LOVES the HUMAN WORLD ... JOHN 3:16 = "*For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*" God LOVED the WORLD (Humanity ... created Men and Women in HIS IMAGE) so much HE DIED FOR IT. NOT a PROBLEM! We should ALSO LOVE HUMANITY.

So, "**DO NOT LOVE this WORLD NOR the THINGS it OFFERS YOU...**" (1 Jn 2:15) is about our ENEMY and HIS INVISIBLE **SPIRITUAL SYSTEM / WORLD** he USES to OPPOSE GOD and JESUS.

#### **4 REASONS TO NOT LOVE THE WORLD**

For TODAY, LET'S ATTEMPT to be CLEAR about WHAT we LOVE and WHAT we HATE. THINK: IF we TRULY LOVE SOMETHING / SOMEONE, it will CAUSE us to HATE SOMETHING ELSE. IF I LOVE my WIFE, I HATE whatever might HURT HER.

In Psalms (97:10) ... "**You that LOVE the LORD; HATE EVIL.**" In Romans (12:9) ... "**HATE what is EVIL and CLING to what is GOOD.**" We can NOT SERVE TWO MASTERS ... the WORD or the WORLD. LOVE ONE and HATE the OTHER. It works BOTH WAYS! It is like a **SLIDING SCALE** ... The MORE you LOVE ONE (in whatever AREA of your LIFE), the MORE you HATE the OTHER ...

So ... 4 REASONS to NOT LOVE the WORLD. #1 =

## #1 = What the World IS

We USE the word “WORLD,” NOT as a SEPARATE PLANET or SEPARATE PLACES in our WORLD ... instead, it is a SYSTEM WITHIN our WORLD. It’s like the “**WORLD of SPORTS.**” It’s NOT a SEPARATE WORLD, but it is an ORGANIZED SYSTEM made up of a SET of IDEAS, PEOPLE, ACTIVITIES, INTENTIONS ... a SYSTEM SET UP to ACCOMPLISH a PURPOSE, or PURPOSES. We can say the SAME about the “**WORLD of FINANCE**” or the “**WORLD of POLITICS.**” They are set up to FUNCTION BEHIND the SCENES WITHIN THE BIGGER WORLD. And, IF we do NOT THINK about these SYSTEMS, they are INVISIBLE to US. They just ARE.

THEREFORE, we MUST allow GOD to TRANSFORM US by CHANGING the WAY we THINK (Rom 12:2). IF we do NOT THINK ... IF we just DRIFT / COAST ... IF we just DO what EVERYONE ELSE is DOING without THINKING about what WE and EVERYONE ELSE is DOING, we END UP ... being OF this WORLD ...

Well, the “**WORLD**” in the BIBLE, is SATAN’S SYSTEM for OPPOSING the WORK of CHRIST on THIS PLANET (Jesus created) and with HUMANITY (Jesus created in His image). It is the OPPOSITE of what is GODLY and HOLY. JESUS understood that SATAN has AUTHORITY OVER this WORLD (40 Days / Luke 4). In JOHN 12, Jesus called Satan, “*the prince of this world*”. According to PAUL (Ephesians 6), the DEVIL has an ORGANIZATION of EVIL SPIRITS working with him to INFLUENCE “*the WORLD*”.

Just as The HOLY SPIRIT uses PEOPLE to ACCOMPLISH God’s WILL on EARTH, Satan USES PEOPLE to accomplish EVIL. UNSAVED people, whether they REALIZE IT or NOT (SOME DO and MOST DON’T) ... Paul ... **EPHESIANS 2:1-2 = *Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.***

Jesus called UNSAVED people the “**CHILDREN of THIS WORLD**” (Luke 16). Whereas, a CHRISTIAN is part of the HUMAN and PHYSICAL WORLD, but NOT a part of the SPIRITUAL WORLD ... SATAN’S SYSTEM for OPPOSING GOD. And THAT CREATES PROBLEMS for FOLLOWERS of JESUS. Because, IF we LOVE the WORLD, it TENDS to LOVE us BACK. But, IF we HATE the “WORLD” and LOVE JESUS (sliding scale) ... JESUS says, **JOHN 15:18-19 = *“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. 19The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.***

It’s like THIS WORLD is NOT where we BELONG. Like we are ALIENS in our OWN WORLD. STRANGERS in a STRANGE LAND. A CHRISTIAN’S HOMELAND is in HEAVEN ... and ALL our RESOURCES for LIVING / SURVIVING / WORKING in this FOREIGN LAND COME from our FATHER in HEAVEN.

Warren Wiersbe LIKENS it to SCUBA DIVING. UNDER WATER is NOT our NATURAL HABITAT. We DON’T BELONG THERE. But, with the RIGHT RESOURCES (Scuba Gear), he can LIVE, BREATHE, and WORK in a FOREIGN SETTING.

LIKewise, We NEED the SPIRITUAL RESOURCES (the HOLY SPIRIT LIVING within US) of PRAYER, WORSHIP, The WORD, and FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT, or we would NEVER “**MAKE IT**” in this WORLD. This WORLD is so POLLUTED SPIRITUALLY, we could NOT BREATHE! So ... **1 JOHN 2:15 = *Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.***

SLIDING SCALE (Love for GOD vs. Love for the World)! #2 = MORE SERIOUS ...

## #2 = What the World DOES to US

You can NOT LOVE the FATHER and the WORLD. IF you start to LOVE the WORLD MORE in WHATEVER AREA of your LIFE ... It is to THAT MEASURE that you do NOT LOVE the FATHER. AND ... IF you do NOT LOVE The FATHER / Have the LOVE of the FATHER IN YOU, it will AFFECT your RESPONSE to GOD'S WILL. When we LOSE our ENJOYMENT of the FATHER'S LOVE for US, we start to LOSE or WILLINGNESS to OBEY The FATHER'S WILL.

Let's KEEP this SIMPLE: **ANYTHING in our lives that CAUSES us to LOSE our ENJOYMENT of the FATHER'S LOVE for US OR My DESIRE to DO HIS WILL is of the "WORLD."** There are CERTAIN things in LIFE we KNOW are SIN, right? I mean let's NOT DEBATE over GOSSIP, LYING, STEALING, ADULTERY, etc. But we DEAL with OTHER AREAS we might SEE as a BIT GRAYER. We're NOT SURE on SHOULD or SHOULDN'T. The BIBLE DOESN'T say ANYTHING about HOW to MANAGE some INTRICATE situation, SOCIAL MEDIA. The INTERNET is NEVER MENTIONED in OLD or NEW Testaments.

Well, HERE is how you HANDLE IT. ASK YOURSELF: **Will WHATEVER it IS CAUSE ME to FORGET ABOUT or LOSE my ENJOYMENT of the FATHER'S LOVE for ME or LESSEN my DESIRE and ABILITY to DO HIS WILL TODAY?** Be HONEST with YOURSELF! We will NEED to THINK and NOT GO with the FLOW!

John POINTS out THREE DEVICES Satan USES to PULL us AWAY from God's LOVE and WILL ... **1 JOHN 2:16 = For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.**

3 THINGS: Lust of the PHYSICAL, LUST of the EYES, and our PRIDE. We are REMINDED of these DEVICES from the BEGINNING / Garden of Eden. Genesis 3 = She thought the TREE was GOOD for FOOD (Flesh / Physical), she SAW BEAUTIFUL FRUIT (eyes) and she DESIRED the WISDOM for HERSELF (Pride).

First, CRAVING Physical PLEASURE is about ANYTHING that PUSHES US to our SINFUL / HUMAN Side. We have DESIRES that are GOOD: Hunger, Thirst, Tiredness, and Sex ... These are NOT EVIL in THEMSELVES. BUT Satan TEMPTS US by APPEALING to these NORMAL APPETITES and INVITING US to SATISFY them in SINFUL WAYS. Gluttony, Drunkenness, Laziness, and Sexual Immorality (according to GOD'S Word) are SINFUL WAYS of fulfilling GOOD DESIRES. Satan DECEIVES US into thinking what is SIN is NOT SIN, and what is GODLY can NOT BE RIGHT. IF we FALL for Satan's DECEPTION, we start to SERVE the ENEMY with our ACTIONS.

Second, The SIN / CRAVING of the EYES is NOT JUST about NOT LOOKING at what is SINFUL / SEXUAL. It is ALSO about our EYES being a WINDOW into our MINDS ... we SEE MANY things as BEAUTIFUL and GOOD that MIGHT NOT BE. We SEE and receive into our MINDS what is ENTERTAINING and APPEARS to be GOOD and "**SMART.**" This can cause us to GO AFTER ENTERTAINMENT that is CONTRARY to GOD'S WORD or even INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS that are NOT AGREEABLE with GOD'S WORD.

Finally, PRIDE. The GREEK WORD for "PRIDE" was used to DESCRIBE someone BRAGGING to TRY to IMPRESS others of ONE'S IMPORTANCE. Think of ALL we DO and PURCHASE to MAKE an IMPRESSION! Houses we can't afford. Cars we can't afford. Maybe our CLOTHES because we want to LOOK the PART. It is this "**PRIDE in our ACHIEVEMENTS and POSSESSIONS**" that causes us to WANDER AWAY from The FATHER'S LOVE and His WILL.

As we get to the THIRD REASON NOT to LOVE the WORLD, let me BACK UP to VERSE 12 ... 1 JOHN 2:12-14 = *I am writing to you who are God's children because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus. 13I am writing to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I am writing to you who are young in the faith because you have won your battle with the evil one. 14I have written to you who are God's children because you know the Father. I have written to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong. God's word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one.*

SO ... This is where we are going to STOP THIS WEEK.

NEXT WEEK: TWO MORE REASONS WHY NOT to LOVE THIS WORLD...

### **#3 = What a CHRISTIAN IS**

JAMES 4:4 = *4You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.*

1 JOHN 2:17 = *17And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.*

### **#4 = Where the World IS GOING**

ROMANS 12:1-2 = *1And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

Let's PRAY Together!

Next Steps: *I will Memorize 1 John 2:17  
I will Read 1<sup>st</sup> John and Romans 2  
I will invite someone to worship with me this summer.*

## Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us!  
In a moment, we are going to RECEIVE the OFFERING so please take this time to finish COMPLETING any information.

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)
- AND when our ushers come around to RECEIVE our OFFERING
- You can drop that card in the offering basket.

### **IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today**

• We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you.  
It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is HIT "**SEND**" your COMPLETED Connection Card

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- I just want to remind you ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... AND it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... **1 JOHN 2:17 = 17And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.**
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the first place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- NEXT WEEK: **LOVE LETTER from JOHN ...**

*"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."*

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