

FALLING OUT OF LOVE WITH THE WORLD

Int.

1. Aim: To show what it means to fall out of love with the World
2. I **John 2:15-17** "Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."
3. A great danger that all Christians face is that of falling in love with the world.
 - a. We might not think about falling in love with the world - we usually use that kind of talk for people. Young people fall in love - sometimes older people also
 - b. When we become so delighted by the offerings of the world that we are willing to put the Lord in second place, what else would you call it!
 - c. What do we mean by the 'world'?
 - i. *Not the earth! God created the 'world' and it was good. - Gen. 1
 - ii. *Not the people of earth! God loves the people of the world. - Jn. 3:16
 - iii. *The world we are not to fall in love with is sin and unrighteousness - those things that are in opposition to God.
 - d. James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world."
 - e. James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

4. Christians are to avoid at all costs loving the things of this world.
 - a. It is so easy to fall in love with the world.
 - b. We are very attracted to the things of the world.
 - c. Satan has designed them to catch and hold our attention.
5. We will notice three reasons why so many fall in love with the world, and then show how we can keep from falling in love with the world.

Discussion

I. WHY SO MANY FALL IN LOVE WITH THE WORLD (16)

- A. **The World Appeals to Our Flesh.** ¹ "Lust of the flesh"
 1. "The desire of the flesh" [YLT] ~ "All that panders to the appetites" (NEB).
 2. This means that we live a life that is dominated by the senses.
 - a. It can involve: Gluttony, pleasure, lust, immorality, selfishness - we spend our lives pleasing our senses.
 - b. "The flesh's desire is regardless of the commandments of God, the judgment of God, the standards of God and the very existence of God." (Barclay)
 3. 'Lust of the flesh'. Lust is a "desire, a craving, or a longing.
 4. It is used in the Bible only three times in a good sense; in every other case it is used in an evil sense.
 - a. By the "flesh" John is referring to those things which are done in the flesh.
 - (1) "Desires," in this sense, includes sex, but it also includes the other normal appetites [desires] ²
 - (2) Galatians 5:19-21 gives a list of the things that are done in the flesh.
 - (3) Sinful Cravings

b. James 1:13-15 “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

c. It is our own lusts that lead us away from God. A thought or the temptation is not wrong until it is conceived or until one makes a decision to satisfy.

5. Many people fall in love with the world because of their sinful cravings.

B. The World Appeals to our Imagination.

1. “The lust of his eyes” * “Everything the world affords entices the eyes” (NEB)

2. This is the 'tendency to be captivated by outward show.'

3. It is the spirit which can see nothing without wishing to acquire it and which, having acquired it, brags about it.

4. It is the spirit which believes that happiness is to be found in the things which money can buy and the eye can see; it has no values other than the material.³

5. Heb. 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

6. “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity” - Eccl. 5:10

7. Covetousness and Materialism

8. So many people fall in love with the world because of their own sinful cravings and the things they see that they desire. Also.

C. The World Appeals to our Pride.

1. **"Pride of Life"** - This comes from a word which referred to a man who lays claim to possessions and achievements which do not belong to him in order to exalt himself.
2. This describes one who is puffed up and arrogant.
 - a. James 4:14-16 "Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. 16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil."
 - b. Proverbs 16:18 "Pride [goeth] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."
3. The NT is clear that the Christian should adopt an opposite attitude from pride.
 - a. James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."
 - b. 1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"
 - c. Matthew 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."
4. So many fall in love with the world because it appeals to our cravings, to our imagination, and to our pride.
5. If you have fallen in love with the world, how do we fall OUT of love with the world?

II. HOW TO FALL OUT OF LOVE WITH THE WORLD (15-17)

A. Recognize that this is not God's Perfect Love (15, 16b)

1. We are trying to spend our lives seeking the will of the Father!
2. This love that we are chasing in the world is not from the Father - and in fact it keeps us from loving God like we should.
3. Our love for God is singular - He will not accept a back-burner relationship that is not primary in a person's life.
4. God has so much more to offer us than the world, but He will not force us to follow Him.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."
 - b. 2 Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

B. Recognize that the world does not deliver what it offers (17a).

1. In all of our chasing the world we all have experience that it does not deliver what it offers.
2. We are setting ourselves up for disappointment if we think the world is ultimately going to make us happy.
 - a. Living for the world will destroy our lives.
 - b. John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly."

c. Living for the world will leave us empty handed on that great day.

2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

d. The man who attaches himself to the world's aims and the world's ways is giving his life to things which literally have no future.

e. All these things are passing away and none has any permanency.

f. But the man who has taken God as the center of his life has given himself to the things which last for ever. The man of the world is doomed to disappointment; the man of God is certain of lasting joy. (Barclay)

C. Recognize that Loving the world will cost us our souls (17b).

1. Only by doing the will of God do we have the promise of eternal life.

2. This is a powerful motivation for us to remember the reasons why we love God. He has SAVED us! If we turn away from Him we have no hope.

3. The world may offer us a good time for now, but what about an eternity of joy and comfort? The world cannot compete with that!

4. Tit. 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

5. This world and all therein will be destroyed - Heaven is eternal !

Conclusion

1. It's easy to see why people fall in love with the world - but really when we look at what the results of that are - we are reminded of the danger of loving anything more than God.
2. This is a decision that we must make. 2 Timothy 4:10 "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;..."
3. It might make you uncomfortable..there might be something in the world that you have really fallen in love with..and you don't want to give it up.
4. Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Night April 22, 2007
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End Notes

1. Sermon by John Dobbs
2. Bible Study Textbook Series I Jn. 2:16
3. Barclay commentary