

Love Not the World – Part I

I John 2:12-15b

March 3, 2024

I. Introduction and Review

II. Believers in the World – vs. 12-14

A. A general grouping – v. 12

1. "little children": literally "born ones"
 - a. This term shows no distinction of age
2. Remember: Believers are to be in the world, but not of world
3. "Your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake" – Psalm 25:11; 79:8, 9; Isaiah 48:9, 11

B. A specific grouping – vs. 13, 14

(Many passages suggest that there are levels of maturity for believers: Mark 9:28; John 21:15, 16; Romans 14:1; 15:1; I Corinthians 14:20; Ephesians 4:14)

1. "Children": literally "inexperienced ones" – vs. 13c, 18
 - a. Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 5:11-14
 - b. "They delight in their experiences. They are quickly excited and easily afraid." – John MacArthur
 - c. "These are young Christians who have not yet grown up in Christ . . .immature ones." – Warren W. Wiersbe
 - d. Their chief enemy are false teachers – v. 18
2. "Young men": strong growing Christians – vs. 13b; 14b
 - a. They have overcome the evil one (verse 13) because they are strong (verse 14) and they are strong because the word of God abides in them
 - b. "The young men then are not yet fully mature, but they are maturing, for they use the Word of God effectively" – Warren W. Wiersbe
 - c. A young man has outgrown his emotions and feelings and look to the word for guidance" – John MacArthur
 - d. Their chief enemy is the world – vs. 15-17

3. "Father": mature Christians – vs. 13a; 14b

- a. "The fathers . . . have an intimate personal knowledge of God. Because they know the dangers of the world." – Warren W. Wiersbe
- b. "A spiritual father has a personal, experiential, in-depth knowledge of God." – John MacArthur
- c. Examples: Job 42:1-6; Hosea 4:6; 6:6

C. Some Observations

1. Children delight in their experiences, young men in their understanding, fathers in their God.
2. Churches need all three groups

III. God's Message to His Own in the World – vs. 15-17

A. Do not (or stop) love the world" – v. 15a

1. Love and hate go hand and hand in scripture
 - a. "Hate evil, you who love the LORD" – Psalm 97:10
 - b. Psalm 119:104, 113, 128, 163
 - c. "Let love be without hypocrisy, abhor what is evil; cling to what is good." – Roman 12:9
 - d. "You cannot love God and the world at the same time." – James 4:14

2. The various uses of the word "world" (Kosmos) used 187 times

- a. The earth and plants: Acts 17:24
- b. Mankind: John 3:16
- c. Worldly system: I John 2:15; 5:19

B. "Nor the things in the world" – v. 15b

1. Worldliness is not so much a matter of activity as it is attitude
2. Worldliness ? ? ? ?