



A Proper View of the World

Message Notes, January 21, 2017

John 3:16-17, 1 John 2:15-16

The call to Harvest:

1. Begins with the glory of God.
2. Builds on a proper view of the world.
3. Is fueled by love.
4. Culminates in the command to GO.

Our view of the world is critical in the call to Harvest. How we see the world at large has a huge impact on how we see people.

John 3:16-17 declares how God “so loved the world” that he sent Jesus to “save the world.”

1 John 2:15-16 charges us to “not love the world or anything in it”.

Three different meanings for “the world”:

1. The physical globe we live on.
2. The people of the earth.
3. The moral order or system of those who reject or ignore God. The way of life that seeks meaning and fulfillment in the “things” of creation rather than the Creator.

We must resist the temptation to “love the world.” (the 3rd meaning expressed above)

- The 1 John 2 verse above instructs us to resist the “lusts of the flesh” – that part of our fallen nature that opposes God and wants to take the place of God, to rule and satisfy ourselves. “Love of the world” is rooted in self-gratification.
- We are made in the image of God, for relationship with Him. Our deepest desire and need is to know Him.
- The “things” of the world were created good, but when these things take God’s place in our lives (i.e., become the treasure of our hearts), then they rob our true life and bring ruin. This is the essence of idolatry – looking to things to satisfy our souls.
- When we yield to this idolatry of the world, people become things to be manipulated for our own gratification. Thus a world view of compromise and love for the world has a direct impact on how we see and treat people.

But the opposite extreme, hatred of the world, is also unbiblical.

- John 3:16 reveals that God’s heart towards the world is not hatred or even judgment but love and salvation.
- Yes, the world is broken and full of evil, and people do evil things, but God does not hate people; He loves them and wants to redeem them.



- Contrasting Jesus with the religious leaders of his day (Pharisees):

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| JESUS | PHARISEES |
| World is broken | World is evil |
| People are lost | People are bad |
| People are to be pursued | People are to be avoided |
| A heart of mercy | A mind of judgment |
| Redemption | Rejection |
- Harvest is rooted in seeing people as Jesus sees them – “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

There is often a deeper story behind what we see going on in people lives – a story that will drastically shift our perspective from judgment to compassion.

The world is broken and full of lost people yearning for life. Jesus came and died to redeem the world.

May we be the kind of people who throw surprise birthday parties for hookers at 3 a.m.