

Discussion Questions: Impediments to Love 1 John 2:12-17

Drawn from the September 24, 2023 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

*I am writing to you, **dear children**, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name... because you know the Father. 1 John 2:12 & 14*

*I am writing to you, **fathers**, because you know him who is from the beginning. 1 John 2:13 & 14*

*I am writing to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one... because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you. 1 John 2:13 & 14*

Opening questions:

Read these verses not as if they were written to three different age groups or maturity levels, but to all followers of Christ at different points in their lives. What is John saying about all of us as Christ followers?

Share a personal experience when you felt torn between your love for something in the world and your love for God. How did you navigate that situation, and what did you learn from it?

Our discussion today is about Impediments to receiving and expressing love.

I. Identifying the Problem

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them.” 1 John 2:15 NIV

1. How would you define “the world” as it is used here, since it is described in the Bible in different ways? (See personal reflection section for examples)

In general, the New Testament views the world as a mission field. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus calls his disciples the “light of the world” (5:14; cf. John 8:18), sends them to make disciples of all nations (28:19), and says that the “good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations” before the end will come (24:14). In Acts, Jesus informs the disciples that they shall be witnesses to the end of the earth (1:8), and those witnesses are later identified as people who turn the world “upside down” (17:6)

What has God done in your life recently to turn your attention to Him instead of the cheap substitutes the world offers?

We will not be covering the final verses of 1 John 2:18-29 in this series. You may want to read this passage and work through the following questions this week.

A. How do you personally discern true and false teaching? How does the Holy Spirit help us with this?

B. Why is saying “Jesus is the Christ” a good test of truth? In 1 John 1:1 it says Jesus was from the beginning and the Word of Life. In verse 4:2 it says we must believe he “came in the flesh”. Why are multiple “tests” helpful in clarifying what John means?

C. How do you remain in fellowship with Christ? Can you list some ways?

Coming up:

October 1: Love in Action (1 John 3:11-24)

October 8: Love is the Theme (1 John 4:7-16)

October 15: Love to Change the World (1 John 5)