

Jason Henderson  
Market Street Fellowship  
141130

## Love Not The World

There was a time when I believed in Christ, and I think I was born of the Spirit, and wanted to be a good Christian, but had no spiritual knowledge. I did not know the difference between the Spirit and the flesh, the world and the heavens, above and below. I had not truly seen “above”, and so I couldn't discern “below”. I was in below, born from below... and yet I could not discern it, because I could not see it from above. I could not see it from another vantage point. Do you see what I mean?

So I tried to not love the world, but the world was all I knew. I tried to stop loving the world, but I had no real other option in my heart. I had not seen the things above. Not really. I had seen no (or very little) light. And when I stopped “doing” worldly things in one way, I would start doing other worldly things that I would call spiritual. I would join ministries and lead “worship” and serve the poor... all of which I thought was spiritual. But It was still worldly in my heart. I was unable to do those things for spiritual reasons. The same worldly love was motivating my ministry, my service, and my worship.

Somebody says, “what do you mean?... those are very spiritual things!”. That is what I thought too, when I couldn't see from above. But those things are not spiritual in themselves. They can be done (and are very often done) in and for the love of the flesh, the love of the world, the love of an idol. I know that I did those things so that I would be spiritually great in God's sight. I did them to be praised by God and man. I did them out of fear and guilt, or spiritual pride and ambition. I tried to stop being worldly, but I only knew the world and the love of it.

So, then there was the time when I truly began to see the difference between above and below, spiritual and earthly. And one of the first things I saw in that new light was that everything I had done was earthly, adamic, fleshly, from below. I rejoiced to see this division, and as it grew in my understanding, I talked about it for years. I still talk about that division, and I pray I always will. It's the division of the cross, the great boundary between Adam and Christ, between old and new, between the world below and the world above, both of which are known by the man that belongs to that realm.

But I have realized in the last year or so, that in many ways I have been looking at that division, and

talking about that division, from the wrong side of the cross. I mean, I have been seeing it, and to some extent experiencing it, but still trying (in some ways) to keep a safe distance. I talk about above with my heart still below. I talk about the greatness of the Spirit, with my heart still clinging to flesh. I talk about how all things are in Christ, but I still have wanted many things in the earth.

Now when I say things like that, the flesh in each of us wants to justify, rationalize, excuse this. You want to tell me that I'm really ok, because you want to feel OK about yourself. I want to tell you that this is normal, because I don't want to see that maybe it is not. We say things to each other like, "what are we going to do, leave the world? Leave our bodies? We still have these vessels. We still have bills to pay, etc." And saying those kinds of things to each other calms down the nagging sense in our hearts that we really should know nothing but Christ and Him crucified, and that God is calling us out of the world.

Well, it's true that we have this treasure in vessels of clay. And we do have bills to pay and kids to feed. **But the problem isn't really that our bodies are in the world. The problem is that our hearts are in the world... where our bodies are. The problem is that we still love our lives in the flesh, our lives in the world. Our home is in the world, our treasure is in the world, our plans and goals and desires are mostly in the world.**

Now you might try to argue with me, and maybe there are indeed some people listening to this that have a right to argue with me. I want to know you. But for most people, a simple, honest look at our plans for the rest of today, or for this week, will settle the issue for us. Do you look at the world today as a temporary place for your body, and for the body of Christ in the earth, and the world itself is seen and valued and used only to the extent that it benefits eternal and spiritual ends? And beyond this, do you see the world as dangerous and distracting? Or do you have personal plans, goals, loves, lusts that are purely earthly, entirely for the man who is earthly?

And I know, that the tendency in somebody that has seen the division of the cross, the division between Adam and Christ, above and below, is to respond to this saying – Jason, these are outward things. The world has been cut off by the cross. It is dead. It doesn't matter. **Yes, but is it dead to you? Does it matter to you?**

You see, you can say that Christ is spiritual and inward, and that our relationship with him in the new covenant is inward and not outward. That is true! The Old Covenant was outward and natural and concerned with do not touch, do not taste, do not handle. And now the new covenant has put away all of that, and now our relationship with the Lord is spiritual, inward, substantial, yes! **But nevertheless, our relationship with most outwards things is inward.**

You see, if our relationship with all outward things was just outward, and we were interested in them for necessary outward things, for natural life and sustenance, that would be ok. If we used the world only for the outward man, that would be one thing. But our relationship with most outward things is very inward. It touches our heart, not just our body. It's not that we are *in* the world, it's that we *love* the world. It's not that we *have* money, it's that we love *money*. It's not that we have treasure, it's that our treasure is in the world, and therefore so is our heart.

**1 John 2:15** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

**John 15:18** *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

**James 4:4** *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God*

What's wrong with the world? Why is it so bad? Why do James and John speak so strongly here? **I think it is because our relationship to almost everything in the natural world is for the benefit, gain, glory, pride, lust of the adamic man.** You see? You can point at it all and say the cross crucified it and made a new creation. Old things have passed away and behold all things are new. But what are YOU doing in that realm every day? What are you seeking there? Why is your time, your heart, your money, your fear totally caught up there?

For a long time now, I have known that the world is dead. I have known that it is the outer realm of shadows, of the flesh, the realm where the adamic man is born, and has his life. It is the realm out from which God calls His church. I have talked about that call, the upward call of God in Christ, the call out of the earth to abide in the heavens. I have talked about it a lot. I have experienced it some. But I have also held myself back. **I have not understood that Adam and his world are, in many ways, the same thing. Leaving the one means leaving the other. “Get out of your country, kindred, and father's house, and go unto a Land that I will show you.”**

My heart has been stuck for a long time on the kingdom of God. When I think about the kingdom of God, or read anything in Scripture about the kingdom, my heart rejoices, and I feel a true longing for it.

In my experience, there has been a time for pointing out that David is the only true king, and not Saul, and not the Philistines and Amalekites. I have been dealt with of the Lord that Saul, and his kingdom (the first) is not what pleases the Lord. It seems to me that all spiritual knowledge begins by dividing these two men in the heart, and showing that all of God's pleasure is in the second, and not in the first.

And then there was a time where it seemed like the most amazing thing to me about the kingdom of God was the fact that it was inward. That it was an inward reign of an inward Christ, taking down enemies, killing uncircumcised flesh, removing idols, pulling down strongholds and imaginations and everything that raises up against the true knowledge of God. The fact that all of this takes place IN US, and not in the world, not in the future, not in the Middle East, or whatever... all of that was so precious and real and amazing to me for a time. I could not stop talking about it.

But now is a time when I feel compelled to talk about the increase of David's kingdom, and to let the Lord deal with the LACK of His reign in the land that He purchased. Now I feel like God is highlighting to me the fact that He anointed His "David" as king long ago, **and still most of the land is not under his dominion. Sure we can all point to Him as the true king. But there were many men who knew that David was the rightful king, but still followed Saul.**

If we, as a fellowship, and as individual believers, are going to make such a huge deal about Adam's fallenness, depravity, nothingness, weakness, blindness, deadness and corruption (all of which I believe we SHOULD make a big deal about).... and if we are going to talk so much about how this man cannot please God, and cannot do anything good, and also how this man builds his own counterfeit church, a religious system that is not the true temple of God... (all of which is true and good)... **THEN, we should also come to a point in our heart where we are no longer just pointing out the difference, but truly desiring every influence of this man Adam to cease in ourselves.**

My point in all of this is not to tell you to focus on the world, or to give a bunch of tasks, or self-assessments. My point is to let the truth take the world, and your love for it from you. Read some of these verses that I read today. Consider them. They are very clear and plain, but we ignore them.

**More than anything, my desire is that we let the Lord reign in and over all things. Because any external things that we will not submit to the internal reign of Christ will become our stumbling block and our anchor.** Do you see that? Yes, it's an internal kingdom that reigns in the soul. But your soul is unfortunately still very attached to the outward world and flesh. So refusing to let Christ reign over outward things is really refusing to let Him reign over your inward lusts, plans, and purposes for those things.

And let me just say one more thing that is related to all of this. I have seen and rejoiced in the fact that God is satisfied with Christ and only Christ. Only Christ meets the expectation and desire of the Father. Christ is the only standard, the only nature that God accepts. It is not in our efforts, works, thoughts, zeal, or anything of ourselves that we can please God or meet the smallest expectation. **God is satisfied with Christ alone. And yet God is not satisfied (and neither should we be) with the measure of Christ that is working in us.** God is not satisfied with the reign of sin that still governs in believer's hearts. Christ is the only One that pleases God's heart; but there is much more than Christ still working in our hearts, and that is not ok with Him.

The finished work of Christ is wonderful and true, and I feel like it has been shown to us as the foundation of almost everything else that we see and share here. But we need to understand it rightly. It is finished because God did everything in Christ. There is nothing He needs to add to it. There is nothing that we could ever add to it. He doesn't need to come and finish up what He started. He's not waiting for us to complete it. That is all true and so very essential. **Nevertheless, what God has finished and perfected is not perfectly reigning in us. The finished work of the cross is sadly not the only thing working in my heart. The finished work of the cross doesn't make sin ok in my heart, it conquers it, destroys it. Faith should purify the heart even as He is pure. Love should reign in the absence of flesh. The perfect work of the cross should circumcise every fleshly thing in His land.**

You see, we come to a finished and perfect work. But that doesn't mean that God just draws a big circle around all that we are and all that we do and say, "this is all great, because its been joined to the finished work!". No, that finished work enters us like a King wanting to conquer, like heavenly leaven wanting to spread and fill, like a mustard seed that will choke out every other living plant. What God has finished in His Son must, by His increase, become the only thing remaining in us.