

Market Street Fellowship  
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Ryan McMaster

### The Love of the Father

A couple of months ago I shared some things I have been experiencing in my heart - regarding the world. I was sharing how much of a grip the world has on man, and that the world isn't a passive place. I talked about how the world is actively engaging our hearts, sinking its hooks into our heart and working against the truth, preventing Christ's seed from growing.

The spirit of this world, the one who makes these hooks sink in, the one who rules and reigns and keeps Adam in a state of deception and darkness is very active, and very real. I think the natural tendency of man is that he looks at the world in a way that justifies it, that makes the things of the world acceptable and pursuable by man - without any consequence. We look at the world as a passive, neutral place, and therefore carry on in it as though everything we are doing and investing in doesn't have any bearing on our soul.

But what a great deception Satan has created in our hearts, what a tricky lie. If you can make something look as though it is not effecting you, then you would simply continue to live in it. It's like a disease that doesn't manifest any symptoms until it has consumed you - then it's too late - it has won, it has overcome your life and you die. Doesn't it make sense that the world would also creep into, or establish, itself in a hidden way? That speaks to what Jesus says when He says, "if the darkness is your light then how great is your darkness?".

If we aren't actively pursuing the Light that God has planted in our heart, we are, without even realizing it, actively pursuing the darkness. And you might ask "why would I actively pursue the darkness?" And Jesus would say, "because men love darkness".

That's just a re-hashing of what we have been talking about for a while now. But it leads into the thing I want to briefly share this morning.

I've been looking at 1 John some over the last week or two, and the thing that is jumping out at me from this letter what he says about love. John uses the word love more than any other writer in the New Testament. In the short few chapters of 1 John, he mentions "love" 26 times. It seems like he's trying to say something important about it, right? You'll notice in 1 John, that the way John talks about love, and the way Jesus talks about love make love a very active thing. The way love is described, the way that love "works" is that it seems it is the result of laying hold of something. Love seems to be the fruit of one of two trees, as we so often talk about. It seems that laying hold of the tree of life (Christ) produces the love of the Father, whereas, laying hold of the other tree, the tree that Christ has cursed, the tree of the world, the tree that blinded Adam, produces the love of the world (Satan).

John says,

#### **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.*

Loving the world means not having the love of the Father in you. Or, laying hold of, or pursuing the world and the things of it results in the inability to receive the things of the Father. The world, the ruler of it, the nature of it, is death. And the pursuit of the things of the world is the pursuit of death. The world is passing away... "all flesh is grass." The love of the world is the love of self. A heart that does not want the Light, the Light of Christ, to shine on it is a heart that

is very simply living in the lusts of the flesh and the pride of life. That man can't stand the love of the Father. He (Adam) can't stand the Light of His Day. The world doesn't know that Light, and when that Light dawns, the man who is living in the world and is "of it" flees into the caves like the bats and moles when the Light dawns. He simply can't bear the Light of the Day of the Lord.

The following chunk of Isaiah 2 is a perfect example of the man whose heart is found in the things of the earth. This man is the man who is proud and lofty, seeking only things for himself, glorying in himself... and this man can't bear the Light of the Day.

***Isaiah 2:1***

*For the day of the Lord of hosts  
Shall come upon everything proud and lofty,  
Upon everything lifted up—  
And it shall be brought low—*

***...17***

*The loftiness of man shall be bowed down,  
And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low;  
The Lord alone will be exalted in that day,*

***18***

*But the idols He shall utterly abolish.*

***19***

*They shall go into the holes of the rocks,  
And into the caves of the earth,  
From the terror of the Lord  
And the glory of His majesty,  
When He arises to shake the earth mightily.*

***20***

*In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver  
And his idols of gold,  
Which they made, each for himself to worship,  
To the moles and bats,*

***21***

*To go into the clefts of the rocks,  
And into the crags of the rugged rocks,  
From the terror of the Lord  
And the glory of His majesty,  
When He arises to shake the earth mightily.*

***22***

***Sever yourselves from such a man.***

*Whose breath is in his nostrils;  
For of what account is he?*

Those idols that the man of the world made for himself to worship will be cast away. The Lord will utterly abolish them.

This has happened. This Day has dawned. As Peter says, the Day is the Daystar rising in our hearts. But this Light in our hearts has to be seen, has to be laid hold of. To know the love of God, we have to know the Light of this Day, we have to see this Light and let this Light cast out the darkness. We have to make the Light of the Day of the Lord the only thing that we love and seek. We have to, as Isaiah says, "sever ourselves from such a man." This is a severing that must take place right now. This is a matter of letting the Lord shine His Light in our hearts to expose the old man and give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This isn't a verse we've heard a many times and need to be reminded of the importance of it... this is everything! This reality, this Light has to be something we are pursuing right now, tomorrow, and always. This is the purpose for our souls creation... to be a habitation for a perfect Life. Not our life perfected, but His life perfected in us. That is a growing up, but a growing up that requires a constant attention. A constant attention to the voice of the Shepherd.

Jesus says some things that are so simple, yet so important and so necessary to become real in our hearts. He says things that can so simply be glossed over as we read the bible. He says many things that I have, in the past, simply taken and applied to someone else, to "the other church" or to the other believer... but not me. However, my heart is the place that Jesus is talking about. My heart, the darkness that has yet to be cast out, is the place, the nature that the Lord is battling and conquering.

In Matthew 6, Jesus describes what our relationship to the world should be:

*Matthew 6*

**25** "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

**27** Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

**28** "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; **29** and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

**31** "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. **34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Right before he tells us these things, he says this:

**24** "No one can serve two masters; **for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.** You cannot serve God and mammon (material possessions).

The Lord knows that we need these things, He knows that we live on a spinning planet and we temporarily occupy flesh "tents". He put us here. But what we do, even though we read these words, is in our heart we ignore the Light. We ignore the warning of the Lord, we ignore it to pursue these things that the Lord says He will provide. We set our hearts on the pursuit of riches in this world, pleasures of the flesh. We do this even while we profess our desire to seek the Lord. This is the nature of Adam at work, the nature that loves the darkness. Jesus describes this man in Matt 15:

*Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:*

**8**

*'These people draw near to Me with their mouth,  
And[e] honor Me with their lips,  
But their heart is far from Me.*

**9**

*And in vain they worship Me,  
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'* "[f]

**10** When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear and understand:  
**11** Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."

We don't need to teach each other doctrines. We don't need to worry about the things of the world, we simply need to pursue the Lord, and love Him, from a pure heart. Do you notice in Matt 15 that Jesus is saying that you can love one or the other. I think we associate the word love with "good". But the way Jesus uses the word love is 2 opposing ways: 1) to describe a love for the Lord, 2) to describe a love for Satan - the king of this world. When we say "I love you" that comes with the understanding that there is a care for someone, a true, deep attachment, that has feelings and emotions and all kinds of strings attached that aren't true of every relationship. Well, although that's probably true of the natural man's understanding of love, I believe that love from a pure heart has nothing to do with anything that we produce. I believe that the love of the Father, the love John talks about, is a product of the Light.

**1 Tim 1:5-7**

**5** Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, **6** from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, **7** desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

Love is a nature that Christ is - a nature that is found in His seed, His root, planted in a heart that is obedient to the Light that is shining on the soil of the soul.

Knowing the Lord requires an absolute following, and absolute obedience to His Light, the Light that leads us in the "only Way possible" out of this world, counting all things of this world as lost, vain and self-serving. That's a big pill for man to swallow. In fact, it's a cross that has to be picked up, daily, and taken to the death of that man. His way is very specific, it is a baptism of the Spirit and Fire. His Spirit and His Fire purify and fill our souls, as we continue to follow Him.

This isn't a teaching, this isn't something that we know in our heads. This is something that we know in our hearts. And as we know and grow in this knowledge of where we are in Him, His love, the love of the Father, is perfected in us. But again, "the love of the Father" is only known and experienced by us if we give up our life.

Jason said last week in the Corinthians class that the cross deals with everything. I think he asked, "what does the cross deal with?... everything... absolutely everything." That's everything. I don't want to start listing "thing" that the cross deals with, because honestly, that list is endless. It is everything that the heart of man places in front of himself to worship. It is every idol in the earth that we think about getting, that we get, that we hope to get, that we love, pursue, it is the thoughts and intents of our heart. It is the entire being of Adam in us. The love for the world stems from the deepest root there is. The root of Satan was established in us at birth. The root of darkness reigns in the heart of man. It isn't passive, it is growing and producing a massive amount of fruit. There is no place in the heart that isn't being reigned by the root of that tree. We have to realize that. We have to understand that this world, and our hearts attachment to it, is a place built upon a dark foundation, a foundation that worships and exalts self. Everything that is made by mans imagination and lust is made to feed mans imagination and lust.

We simply need to bow down before the Lord in our hearts, all the time, and understand, let Him show us, that He has cursed that tree at the root.

We just need His Light, and the water flowing from His Life, to feed the seed that He has planted in us. We can't spend the next 30 years talking about the cross and the truth, but pursue the world and the flesh. We have to give up. We have to let that man be exposed by the Day of the Lord, the Light of that Day forcing that man to bow low. And in that Light and Judgement of the Day, we will begin to understand where we are and know the Light of that Day as the only Light and Life we have. There isn't an option of mixing the things of the world with the Light of Christ. They are at odds with one another. The one is cast down by the work of the cross, a finished work, but here we are, in our short time, given an opportunity to know that finished work and watch that Spiritual seed take root in our heart, a seed that grows into a tree and produces a fruit, a fruit that is the Love of the Father for us. A perfect Love that casts out fear, and darkness, and is known and enjoyed by the soul of man.

**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.*

Just consider what Love really is. It is such a common word, it is such a common idea, but the Love of the Father is something that we can only know as we abide in the Light. A Light that doesn't mix with darkness, so if we are walking in darkness, there is no way we know the Love of the Father. Walking in darkness is very simply loving the world, the Kingdom of darkness; it is finding our life and home here, forgetting the cross, denying the cross, ignoring the reality of the cross and closing our ears to the voice of the Shepherd and running to the wolves that we believe are just passive sheep.

**Isaac Penington on Love:**

*Oh how sweet is love! How pleasant is its nature! How beautifully does it behave itself in every condition, upon every occasion, to every person, and about everything! How tenderly, how readily, does it help and serve the lowest! How patiently, how meekly, does it bear all things, either from God or man, however unexpectedly they come, or however hard they seem! How it does believe, how it does hope, how it does forgive, how it does cover even that which seems not to be excusable, and not fit to be covered! How kind is it even in its interpretations and charges concerning wrongs! It never grates upon the spirit of him whom it reprehends; it never hardens, it never provokes; but it carries a meltingness and power of conviction with it. This is the nature of God. And in the vessels made able to receive love and bring forth its glory, the power of enmity is not able to stand.*