

Where is our emphasis?

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Introduction

1. Text 1 John 2:15-17
2. In this passage we are told not to love the world.
3. How do we love the world? What do we use as a standard to measure this love?
 - a. Kind of car,
 - b. Kind of clothes, and how many
 - c. How big is your house
 - d. How big is your bank account?
 - e. Can you travel anywhere in the world?
 - f. Can you eat at the finest restaurants?
 - g. This was a problem in Biblical times Amos 6:1-6
 - h. Luke 12:15 life consist of more than the things we possess
 - i. Colossians 3:1-2 we are to set our affections on things above
 - j. Jesus encourages us to store up in Heaven Matthew 6:19-21
4. Where is our emphasis? Where is evangelism in our list of priorities? How much time do we spend on this purpose?
5. Our emphasis is seen in several ways

II Discussion

1. Our emphasis is visual by our associations
 - a. We love to be with those we love
 - b. If we love the world our friends and companions will come from the world.
 - i. Psalm 1 the blessed man did not stand in the way of the sinners
 - ii. Psalm 119:63 "I am a companion of all them that fear thee
 - c. We must watch because:
 - i. We will become like them 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - ii. Our marital companions are chosen from those with whom we associate
 - iii. Our lives become enmeshed with the lives of those with whom we associate.
 - iv. We will be judged by those with we associate.
2. Our emphasis is visual by our choice of recreation
 - a. The need for recreation is seen Mark 6:31
 - b. Here is a test we can give to our recreational activities to see if we should participate.
 - i. Is it forbidden by the Scriptures?
 - ii. Will it hurt my influence?
 - iii. Will this cause me to be associated with evil people
 - iv. Will this jeopardize my influence for Christ
 - v. Would Jesus engage in this activity?
 - vi. Would I want to be taking part in this activity when Christ comes?
 - vii. Do the best people on earth engage in this activity?

- viii. Would I have difficulty praying during this activity or after engaging in the same?
 - ix. Would it cause me to violate the principles of Christian stewardship in the area of time talent and money?
 - c. How is it visible?
 - i. Dancing lasciviousness Galatians 5:19-21 (You can go to the dance if you wear a sign that says, "I am a Christian.")
 - ii. Smoking 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - iii. Gambling Ephesians 4:28; Matthew 7:12
 - iv. Drinking alcoholic beverages 1 Peter 2:11
 - v. Immodesty 1 Timothy 2:9
 - vi. Pornography Philippians 4:8
 - vii. Immorality 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - viii. Illustration of a young girl touring a coalmine. She had a white dress on, would it be white when she came out?
- 3. Our emphasis is visual by the arrangement of our priorities.
 - a. God has always wanted first place Exodus 20:3; Matthew 6:33; 22:37-39
 - b. When you make the family budget where is the church?
 - c. Is it the job or God
 - d. Is it Super Bowl Sunday or Sunday evening services?
 - e. Matthew 19:22 the rich young ruler had this problem.
- 4. Our emphasis is visual by our conversation
 - a. What do we discuss when we are together, the work of the church or something else.
 - b. Ephesians 4:29
- 5. Our emphasis is visual toward the marriage and family.
 - a. Do we understand that marriage is for a lifetime. Matthew 19:3-9; Romans 7:1-4
 - b. There is only one cause for divorce and remarriage.
 - c. We need to be teaching this in the church for the rate of divorce in the church is raising.
 - d. We are becoming like the world.

III Conclusion

- 1. You can't love both 1 John 2:15; Matthew 6:33
- 2. Take a look and see which are you in love with? How do you manifest the love?

Source: Denton Lecture 1987 1,2,3 John page 123-127 Wendell Winkler speaker