

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on June 30, 2019:**

**"Transformed by Love Series (Letters of John):
Love the People Not the System (1 John 2:12-17)
(Part 4)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman shows us through John that because our sins have been completely forgiven, and even though we live in this world's systems that has hardships and annoyances, we will be able to deal with them.]

Notes

Introduction:

- We going back to our series of the letters of John.
- One of the most often repeated verse in John's Gospel is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- But, in John's letter here he tells us we're not to love the world or the things of the world."

- So, now let's talk about key principles of Bible study.
- What is the first thing we do when we come upon a contradiction between one verse and another?
- We should check out the word in Greek for its definition or definitions.
- And then we go to look at the context of how the word is used.
- Our good friend, Greg Albrecht, of Plain Truth Ministries, coined this saying: "A text without a context is a pretext, which often leads to a proof text."

- We'll discuss this later in the message.

Recap of 1 John 2:1-11

1. John's purpose for writing was so that we won't sin.
2. When we sin we have an Advocate, Jesus our Savior who is righteous.
3. Jesus is our sacrifice for sin and those of the whole world.
4. We experience our relationship with God by practicing what he tells us.
5. We deceive ourselves that we are in relationship with God if we aren't practicing what he tells us.
6. We abide in relationship by walking in the same manner Jesus walked.
7. This truth is reflected in what Moses wrote and renewed in the Light now shining.

8. If we hate our brother we walk in darkness with our eyes blinded.
9. If we love our brother we walk in light without stumbling.

In preview – in rhyme – of 1 John 2:12-17:

*John tells us his purpose for writing,
And that purpose is truly inviting.
In the Father we are free from sin,
So love all people, not the systems herein.*

*Systems are man-made, so by nature temporal,
People are God-made and NOT fleeting or ephemeral,
This world's systems will soon be passing,
Soon to be forgotten, no longer harassing.*

Who are we? (Verses 12-14):

1 John 2:12 (NASB), I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

- Can we just let that statement sink in just a little bit?
- Our sins are forgiven, which means that even if we sin today or tomorrow, because of our human nature, we are forgiven.
- So, our lives are not absent from sin, but our lives are free from sin.
- It's all because of what Jesus did on the cross.
- Isn't this good news?
- Our state is that we are forgiven of sin.
- And Paul tells us that because we are forgiven of sin, we are also "declared righteous."
- We have the same status in God's family relationship as His Son does.
- Because we are free from sin, we have an eternity to look forward to.
- Eternity is going to be full of laughter and joy and we will be in a special relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit and each other.
- Now the context and definition for the word "world" in John 3:16 means all people – Jesus died for all people.
- Now, being free from sin sets the context of who we are, where we are going, and how we treat those we meet.

13) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

14) I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- In these two verses, John wants to cover all the bases.

- John is very inclusive – he talks about fathers, he talks about young men and he talks about children.
- In our relationship with the Father, there are no barriers, no socio-economic differences that keep God's love away from us.
- Some may contend that John was addressing spiritual maturity and not chronological age.
- But there is no reason why it can't be both.
- John is telling us that all, whether old in that relationship or new in that relationship have that same status.

1 John 2:12 (Mirror Bible, which reflects Incarnational Trinitarian perspective), The reason of my writing is to remind you to live your lives in the innocence of an infant!

- Now infants live care free and John is telling us that we are to live out our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, like a child would with no worries, no concerns.
- The cynical view of life is expressed in the statement: "Life is just one exchange of problems for another set of problems."
- So, John is telling us to live our lives in this relationship as if we are innocent, care free, sin free, the Father has your back and it's all good!
- Knowing this gives us hope, when our lives become bleak at times.

12b) The name Jesus means that you can rest assured of your salvation from sin's harassment!

13) May my writing also remind you that your fatherhood has its authentic genesis in him who is from the beginning. And to you young men, I write to congratulate you for your victory over the exhausting system of hardships, annoyances and labors.

- We know that we live in this world that has hardships and annoyances and we're going to have to learn to deal with them.

13b) You have discovered your strength in Christ's achievement and not your own efforts! I wrote to all of you as children because you know God as your Father.

14) What I have written previously will resonate with the fathers whose acquaintance with him is established in the prophetic voice from the beginning. Also the young men will find their strength endorsed in my writing, since they have the word firmly rooted within them as their permanent source and reference.

- Can we say that we have "the word" firmly rooted in us?
- That's the challenge for us, especially when this world's systems come crashing down on us.
- Having "the word" firmly rooted in us is very proactive.
- Remember this was written when people couldn't pull up Scripture on their I-phone, or Android.
- But many committed Scripture to memory and would share various verse with each other as they got together.

14b) They have defeated the duty-and guilt-driven system that snared them before in the futility of their own efforts.

What the world does to us (Verses 15-16):

- a) The cravings of sinful humanity
- b) The lust of the eyes
- c) The boasting of what he has and does
 - Now, we defining the world as systems.
 - And systems are man-made and we know that by going back to “Tower of Babel.”
 - Now, in Genesis, we know that people are good because God said so, after His creation of humanity.
 - And all the creation around humanity was also good.

 - But, as the population started to grow, systems were created to manage that.
 - Systems are man-made which means they are temporary like economic systems, religious systems, and governmental systems.
 - Mankind’s systems typically are against God and oppose God’s relationship with His family.

1 John 2:15 (NASB), Do not love the world nor the things in the world.

- John is not talking about people when he uses the word “world” in this verse.
- Here John is talking about the man-made systems, which are opposed to God and which can hurt us as children of God.

15b) 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 and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- This does not mean that it’s a better choice of life to live as a hermit and stay out of this world’s systems.
- Now Scripture tells us that we are not citizens of this world, but called citizens of heaven and yet we are told to live here in this world and love those people around us.
- John is not telling us to become absent from society.
- It’s the world’s systems that we have to be careful of and to manage.

1 John 2:15 (Mirror), The Father’s love does not compete with anything the world-system has to offer! Its cosmetic attraction is surface and external; the Father’s love is from within. Do not be lured into an emptiness where love is absent and romance seems lost!

16) There is a clear distinction between the biological, physical life that is exploited by the “I am not – mentality” of the world system,

- All the messages we’re daily bombarded with whether by radio, TV, or the internet that tells us that our present state isn’t good enough and that we need to change our thinking or buy this product.

- That's the "I am not good enough mentality."
- But, remember, that's from the world and not from God.
- In God's eyes, because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, we are perfect.

16b) and the authentic zoe-life of our design that is sourced in the Father. The one engages the individual with a constant yearning and craving for fleshly gratification, with eyes desperately scanning for recognition; this inevitably results in cheap bragging and boastful conversation, which is so utterly boring; while the Father's life satisfies completely!

- Now Hollywood and its lifestyle can be very alluring.
- They drive nice cars, they live in very nice homes and they seem to go out party all the time.
- But, is that the life that truly satisfies?
- Now, the life that completely satisfies takes a little bit of effort and engagement with God.
- It's going to take our "abiding in the vine."
- The more we experience that relationship with God, the more we will feel connected and experience that relational harmony with him.
- It's a relationship that involves both God and us.
- And when we are engaged with God that relational harmony feels vital and vibrant.
- And this is the life that truly satisfies.

Where the world is ultimately headed (Verse 17):

1 John 2:17 (NASB), The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

- "Does the will of God" means the person who is involved in that relationship with God and listening to the Spirit and who is avoiding the ways of this world.
- Once again, John reminds us of God's promise that we will live for all eternity with our loving Father.
- Pastor Craig believes that we truly, in this day and age, do not have free moral agency to make all good choices because we are living within a system that draws us from that.
- Now we do make choices but they are somewhat skewed and distorted.
- He believes that in the future, when this world's systems pass way and we meet Jesus, face to face, that we can truly then exercise our free moral agency that God has intended for us.

1 John 2:17 (Mirror), The world system with all its glamorous dreams comes and goes; but whoever engages with the poetry of God's desires abides unchanged into the conclusion of the ages.

In Summary (1 John 2:12-17) – Let's say this together:

*John tells us his purpose for Writing,
And that purpose is truly Inviting.*

*In the Father we are free from Sin,
So love all people, not the systems Herein.*

*Systems are man-made, so by nature Temporal,
People are God-made, not fleeting or Ephemeral.
This world's systems will soon be Passing,
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- This is truly good news.

Closing prayer