

1 John 2:15-17 On Fire for Jesus

“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.”

What does it take to keep our eyes focused on our Heavenly Father? John says that if we love the world our heart is attached to it and has no room in it to love our Heavenly Father. Wherever our heart is the rest of us is also drawn. So how do we let go of our attachment to the world? Good question! I will start with how we cannot accomplish this purpose. We cannot do this by setting our minds on not loving it. This may seem to work for a little while but invariably we will fall back into it. We simply cannot remove it by this method. Our heart is trapped in a way that can only be unchained by God Himself.

The only way to begin this transformation is to be completely honest with ourselves and with God and admit that very often we really do love the things of this world more than we love Him. We are not going to shock Him with this revelation; He knows our hearts better than we do and it has only been we who have been in the dark to this truth. And why are we in the dark? Because it's hard to admit or even to think that we might love the world more than we love Him. I know that when I confess these things to Him I feel ashamed that I could love something more than I love Him and it feels like a very hurtful thing to admit to Him. Fortunately for us, He loved us before we knew Him or had any desire to be part of His family. So He is patient and gentle with us as He leads us out of this world and into the Joy He has for us.

So here we are in step one admitting that the world has a hold on us and that we need God's help to become unattached to it and attached to Him. Amazingly this is the key to unlocking the chains, for as we seek the Lord He comes to our rescue and actually removes the desire from its hidden recess in our hearts and we will find that the next time we meet up with something that would have caused us to stumble, the part that was in our heart that used to connect and relate to it is gone! It just isn't there to be attached to anymore. Instead it meets a blank wall. Like I said before, this is not something we can remove, it is a sign that God has reached into our hearts and taken it.

What happens when it's gone? We have an empty place in our heart where Jesus can now occupy it. As we start to seek Him earnestly everyday He makes His home in the same place where once resided a passion for something of this world. We have been cleaned and our house put in order.

The peace of God floods our soul and the world falls away like a tattered old garment and we are given a new one in place of it. We are given new desires in place of the old ones. New delights in place of old passions, and a radiant light coming from within which becomes visible to all who see us. This is the Fire of God! And we have become ON FIRE FOR HIM! No other love consuming our hearts but an overwhelming love for Jesus!

God bless!

September 19, 2007

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