

May 15, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Whom Do You Love?"

—The Way of the Christian Life—

Text: 1 John 2:15~17

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.

2:16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

2:17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Introduction

Good morning!

The word family generally refers to the nuclear family which consists of parents and their children. A family starts with a married couple, and they become parents when they have a child or more than one.

Then the parents start to bring up their children. Seeing their child grow is their great pleasure more than anything. They feel very happy to see their children who walk the correct way and grow. **Love** is the most important thing when children are growing. A little difficulty is not a problem if they are given love. Love covers all hardships.

However, if the parents fail to love their child, their parenting fails. Therefore, if there is no love in their family, their family becomes something strange. Regrettably, it is said that such a family is increasing these days. The love has cooled down in these families.

There is a regrettable expression, "a broken family." What is the problem? It seems to be a deep-rooted problem.

John, the author of the first Epistle of John, says that those who believe in God are members of **the household of God**. Christians are brothers and sisters of the household of God. The receivers of the epistle are children of the household of God (brothers and sisters). Therefore, it is not an overstatement to say that the epistle is **a kind of love letter**.

John wrote the epistle to brothers and sisters, who have familial relationship, to give advice (or an order) on how to live in this world. Being a senior leader, John had the authority to give them this order with love.

John said as below,

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.

John ordered, **“Do not love the world or the things in the world.”**

Let us study the following two points from his word today.

Main Points

1. Why Should We Not Love the World? (1)

1) We cannot love two things at the same time

It is impossible to love two things at the same time due to the nature of love. We can choose to love the things in the world or the Father God. It is obvious that Christians sincerely love God the Father who loves us.

The Bible records the most important teaching as below,

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

Love has the severe nature that requires exclusivity. Therefore, the Bible calls he, who loves two things at the same time, is a man of **adultery** and of **double minded**. God hates such things.

Someone may think it is possible to love two things at the same time, but Jesus said as below,

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

In the days of the early church, there was a man named Demas.

The Bible records as below,

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

There are Christians who love the world today and in every age.

We are limited and weak beings and we don't expect that tomorrow will always come.

The Bible records as below,

James 4:14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Nevertheless, they do not look to God who is eternal, and instead they love this world. Please remember that human beings cannot love two things at the same time.

Then, what is **the world** and **the things in the world** like?

2) The world deceives people

2:16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

① The desires of the flesh

The desires of the flesh refer to the natural human heart which wants to follow its own designs. The principle of an action is to follow what one likes. Such a person is involved in what seems fun and avoids what is hard.

It is the principle of this world and reveals the true values of the world. If all people do things by following their own hearts, it is no surprise that problems occur.

Paul said,

Ephesians 2:3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

We all once lived in the passions of our flesh. However, we are changed into looking at God instead of following the desires of the flesh.

② The desires of the eyes

The desires of the eyes are the desires when we look and covet, and they directly

connect to **the desires of the flesh**. Human beings become corrupt by giving into **the desires of the eyes**.

Genesis 3:6 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

It was given only by the grace of God.

If we follow the desires of the flesh, there is no love of God even if they know God.

The desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes are mainly the desires for what we do not have. There is another desire that is **pride of life**.

③ **The pride of life**

The pride of life is to boast about one's property, for example, a luxury car, a house like a castle, being a landowner, immense wealth, and a great fortune, etc.

The life like this and the life to love God are not compatible. The Bible clearly gives a warning about money. My friends, please do not misunderstand what I say. Money itself is not bad (without money, we cannot live). Money is an important thing for everyday life. If we use it by thinking of how to glorify God with it, we can use it effectively.

The problem is with hearts that **love** money. It is **the root of every evil thing**. How many people in the world are suffering from the money problems? It exposes our heart.

If we keep the love of money in our hearts, the love to God fades away and finally we abandon our faith. As a result, we perish and are collapsed by the love of money.

1 Timothy 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

* Then, why we should not love the world and the things in the world?

3) The world is temporary

If we think about the world, the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes and pride of life are all temporary. They do not continue eternally. The temporary things perish someday. However, human beings are easily lured by the desires of the flesh and fascinated with the temporary things.

Which world do we choose? Do we live by seeking the temporary things (of the world) and are lured by them? On the contrary, do we live by looking at the Eternal One.

2. Why Should We Not Love the World? (2)

The Bible teaches and encourages as below,

2:17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 Corinthians 7:31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Thankfully, the works that we performed before God are remembered forever.

Matthew 10:42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

The Bible teaches that even a small deed is remembered by God.

In Matthew chapter 7, Jesus compared a person who follows God's word to a wise someone who builds their house on the rock. It never falls down in any worldly storm. On top of that, that person surely prepares for eternity. It is a wise way to live.

Jesus taught as below,

Matthew 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

What life should we live as a member of God's household? Whom and what things

do we love? John taught that we should not love **the world and the things in the world**. We cannot find the true happiness there. Instead, the Bible teaches to store up yourselves treasure in heaven.

How about today's message? What life should we live?

Conclusion

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—The Way of the Christian Life—

The Lord spoke to us this morning. John, who was the elderly leader, instructed his beloved members of God's household.

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.

The desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes and pride of life deceive people. How many people in the world are suffering from the problems caused by the desires of the flesh? The things in the world are temporary things. On top of that, we cannot love two things at the same time. We should remember this fact.

Let us conclude the sermon by reading the following Scripture and remembering the way of the Christian life.

Matthew 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

* God bless you !