

THE CHRISTIAN'S PLACE IN THE WORLD
Pastor Anthony Knight

- I. Intro: The sweet Doctrine of Regeneration
 - a. Being born again
 - b. When you are born again you are able to see our three enemies more clearly
 - c. Our three enemies are:
 - i. Our flesh
 - ii. Satan
 - iii. The world
 - d. We struggle with the world by not understanding the proper tensions Scriptures shows in our relationship with the world.
- II. Examples of Scriptures Tensions:
 - a. 1 John 2:15 (If you love the world the love of the Father is not in you)
 - b. John 3:16 (God so loved the world He sent His son to die)
 - c. James 4:4 (Friendship with the world is enmity with God)
 - d. Matthew 5: 14 (Be a light in this world)
 - e. John 15:18-19 (The world will hate you because of me)
 - f. Mathew 18 (Go to the nations/world and make disciples)
- III. Warning
 - a. If we keep our distance from the world the right way, we will live holy and pure before God. But here's the warning, here's the pitfall, if you keep your distance from the world the wrong way, you will live in disobedience by not obeying the call to go to the world and make disciples.
 - b. Or you can say like this, let me flip some words around,
 - c. If we love the world the way God loves the world, we will prioritize living on mission. But here's the warning, here's the ditch, if you ignore the warnings to not love the world, you will allow your light the Lord gives you to be swallowed by the darkness of the world.
- IV. Romans 12:1-2
 - a. *1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Now let's watch how Paul breaks down these two verses, he says if you do A, then B will happen, if you present your body as a living sacrifice then you will worship God correctly because you will be holy. God accepts holiness.

Then in verse 2 he does something similar but switches it up a little, he says if you don't do A, but do B, then, C will happen. Right if you don't conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of the mind, remember this transformation, this renewal, is only made possible through the regeneration of the Spirit, being born again, then you will be able to discern what is the will of God, if you can do this, then you know what's good, acceptable, and perfect.

So, in other words Paul wants what's best for the Christian. He wants the Christian to properly worship God spiritually, and Paul wants every Christian to discern the will of God. But one quick note, when Paul says discern the will of God this doesn't mean if we follow these steps then we can know our future. Right this isn't the secret recipe of getting a map of your life, right we are always trying to figure out what's next, what's God's will for my life, we, especially young people we get consumed with this question.

This is not what Paul is referring to, there's no secret recipe to figure out your future. It's interesting as Christians we know how to say the right things to make us look holy but in reality, we are hiding something that's sinful. A lot of times we say, man I'm trying to figure out what's God's will for my life, most of the time when we ask this, we don't care about God's will, we are just asking God to give us a crystal ball into our future. That's what we want, God give me a crystal ball so I can know what's coming next.

That's not true spiritual worship, that's demonic worship trying to know the future, there's no Crystal balls in the Christian faith.

We don't wear necklaces with crystal balls on them, we wear necklaces with crosses on them, why? Because crosses signify death, Jesus dying for our sins, and then us dying to our life, in other words, God I don't need to know my future, I trust you and know that whatever my future brings me, I

am in Your hand so it doesn't matter. I don't need a crystal ball; I just need You!

That's important for us to know because being able to know the will of God doesn't mean what does my future behold, but this is what I do believe it means, it means all those who are renewed, transformed, and born again, has wisdom from Heaven to live in a way that is acceptable and pleasing to God. It's possible for us to do it. Instead of being consumed by the question, God what's your will for my life, what's my future God, we need to ask this question, is my life acceptable to You God? Like am I truly worshipping Him spiritually. Here's one way you can gauge that question, here's one way you can see if you are living acceptable in your Christian walk,

What's your place in this world? Do you know your place in this world?

Let me repeat what I said earlier because I want us to focus the rest of our message on this point,

- a. If we keep our distance from the world the right way, we will live holy and pure before God. But here's the warning, here's the pitfall, if you keep your distance from the world the wrong way, you will live in disobedience by not obeying the call to go to the world and make disciples.
- V. Here are two reasons why we as Christians wrongly distance ourselves from the world
- a. We forget who are True Enemy is
 - i. The systems of the world, the dark spiritual forces of the world, that's our true enemy. The people of the world, that's not our true enemy. Yes, they are at enmity with God because of their sin. Yes, they may attack our faith, laugh at our faith, mock our faith, reject our faith, they are enemies in that sense, Scripture speaks of it. But the people of the world, they are not our true enemies, the people are our mission field. (Ephesian 6:12)
 - b. We forget we are no different from the people of the world apart from the grace of God

- i. We cannot have the proper compassion to pursue and engage the people in this world if we believe we are so much better than them.
- VI. Here are two reasons why we as Christians wrongly love the Lord
 - a. Instead of putting to death our sin, the world will help us feed our sin
 - i. It's more comfortable to feed our sin than to put to death our sin
 - b. Instead of finding our contentment in the Lord, we find our contentment in the world.
 - i. True contentment in the Lord is when you realize nothing in this world can satisfy you. When you realize this, you won't love the world the wrong way.
- VII. How do we find our proper balance and place in this world?
 - a. Romans 12:1-2 tells us to present ourselves as living sacrifices
 - i. **Live** for the mission of God (lost people in the world)
 - ii. **Sacrifice** our unholy attachments to the world

Slides:

1. Examples of tensions in Scriptures
 - a. 1 John 2:15 (If you love the world the love of the Father is not in you)
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 - c. James 4:4 (Friendship with the world is enmity with God)
 - d. Matthew 5: 14 (Be a light in this world)
 - e. John 15:18-19 (The world will hate you because of me)
 - f. Mathew 18 (Go to the nations/world and make disciples)
2. Romans 12:1-2
3. We forget who our True Enemy is
4. We forget we are no different from the people of the world apart from God's grace
5. Instead of putting to death our sin, the world helps us feed our sin
6. Instead of finding our contentment in the Lord, we find our contentment in the world