

Sunday Celebration (September 27, 2009) **John 15:18-16:11**
"The Ministry of the Spirit in the Corrosive Environment of the World"

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION OF "THE WORLD" ...Jn 15:18 - 16:4

DESCRIPTIONS FROM JESUS:

- 1. "The World Hates" ... v. 18**
- 2. "The World Loves its own" v. 19**
- 3. "The World Doesn't Recognize or Know God" v. 21, 16:3**

- They are in this condition WITHOUT EXCUSE: (Jn 15:22-24)

Rom 1:19-20 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Rom 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

a) **The Works of God**will testify against the man who doesn't know God and reveal that he is without excuse— He Did Not WANT to Know God!

b) **The Moral Conscience in Man**will testify against man that right & wrong were written in Every Man's Heart, yet you did not search for the writer— He is Without Excuse

ENVIRONMENTAL WARNINGS:

- **Don't be captivated by the World's NATURAL BEAUTY**
- **Don't look at the World as INNOCENT or NEUTRAL**
- **Don't Expect COMPATIBILITY to be the common experience for your walk**

WHAT DOES IT PRACTICALLY MEAN THAT THE WORLD HATES CHRIST?

- **The World Hates His RIGHTEOUSNESS**
 - **Rom 1:18ff** ... It suppresses God's righteousness and chooses other patterns of life more to its liking!

- **The World Hates His LIGHT**
 - **Jn 1:9-11**
 - **Jn 3:19-20**
 - *Why Do People NOT Come to Christ? ...*
because they love Doing Life Their OWN WAY

- **The World Hates His CONVICTION of Them**
 - **Jn 7:7** "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify about it that its works are evil."

- **The World Hates His AUTHORITY**
 - **Matt 28:18-20** "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
 - **Rom 9:14-21**
 - **Dan 4:34-35** "for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

- **The World Hates His GRACE**
 - Why is it that ALL False Religions and False Beliefs are BASED IN HUMAN EFFORT & MERIT?
 - **1Cor 1:18-24**

THE WORLD HAS REJECTED GOD'S RULE AND GOD'S WAY

... In the Category of Defining God

... In the Category of Defining Marriage, Family, and Sexuality

MARRIAGE:

- No Longer a Covenant for Life
- Nominalized for Personal Pleasure rather than for Glorifying God
- Fidelity is increasingly Rare

... *The World HATES the Image of God in Marriage*

Eph 5:31-32 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."

FAMILY

- 1 out of 3 children live apart from their biological father (U.S. Census Bureau report)
- **QUOTE: CNN.com article ... 40% of children born out of wedlock**

SEXUALITY:

- **No Longer Reserved for Marriage ONLY**
- **No Longer Heterosexual**

... *The World Hates the Image of God in Male/Female Distinctives and Roles*

Gen 1:27-28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..."

Rom 1:24-27 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural

relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

... In the Category of Defining RIGHT & WRONG (Postmodern Relativism)

Do You See the CORROSIVE EFFECT of These Things On The CHURCH??

HOW ARE WE TO BE PROTECTED IN THIS CORROSIVE ENVIRONMENT?

Jn 15:26-6:11 ... The Holy Spirit— Our Protection from Corrosion

In this Corrosive/Deceitful Environment we must be:

... Led into the Truth by the Holy Spirit

– Do You Base What You Believe and Hope For in the TRUTH?

... Led into Convictions by the Holy Spirit

Conviction (Oxford Dict.) = a firmly held belief or opinion. the quality of showing that one is convinced of what one believes or says
- ***Origin*** – related to "convince" (Latin: con + vincere [to overcome])

“ To have convictions is to be thoroughly convinced that something is true. ...A conviction goes beyond having a personal preference about something. It goes deeper than a subjective opinion. Having convictions is being so thoroughly convinced that something is absolutely true that you take a stand for it regardless of the consequences.” Josh McDowell, “Beyond Belief to Convictions”, p. 22