

N e h e m i a h 1 3

GOD'S AMAZING LOVE

Romans 8:28-39

“...all things work together for good to those who love God...

“...If God is for us, who can be against us?”

“...how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

“...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

“I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

THE WORLD

The world, “worldliness,” gets in our way.

1 John 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.”

Satan is the “...god of this world...” (2 Cor. 4:4)

He knows he can't take God's love **AWAY FROM YOU**, so his goal is lead **YOU AWAY FROM** God's love.

Be kind and friendly but don't get too “chummy”

“Anything that cools my love for Christ is the world.”

-John Wesley

NEHEMIAH SEPARATES

Re-built the walls.

Walls can be good, even necessary.

Because we are called to be separate.

- “set apart,” a light to a dark World.

NEHEMIAH 13

Nehemiah leaves then returns to find the priest and the people getting chummy with the enemy.

- We're going to look at 3 things to help us understand this;
 1. How the world reacts to followers of Christ.
 2. The process of becoming worldly.
 3. The tools of the world.

1. HOW THE WORLD REACTS

The world is against us (v. 1-3)

Tobiah, a perfect example (v. 4-5):

1st - They'll get annoyed (2:10)

2nd - They'll get angry (4:1-3)

3rd - They'll take action (6:10-12)

4th - They'll turn others against you (6:17-18)

Be aware of these attitudes and actions — don't be surprised.

2. THE PROCESS

Here's the subtle process that takes:

1st - We become “allied” with the world (13:4-9).

2nd - We stop worshiping God (13:10-14).

3rd - We become disobedient (13:15-22).

4th - We become just like the world (13:23).

5th - Finally, we become Spiritually dumb (13:24).

Nehemiah takes this pretty seriously (v.8, v.13, v.19, v.25-27)

EVEN THE GREATEST...

Solomon (v.26-27)

Lot (Gen. 13 and 19)

Even King David, a “man after God’s own heart,” went and lived with his enemy (the Philistines) (1 Sam. 27)

3. THE TOOLS OF THE WORLD

3 ways the world tries to get too chummy — 1 John 2:16:

1. Lust of the flesh.

- Our natural desires practiced in the wrong way.

2. Lust of the eyes.

- Entertainment, vanity, covetous, general distractions...

3. Pride of life.

- Needing the latest things to feel included, seeking notoriety, feeling important or powerful. wanting people to notice you... selfies?

B O T T O M L I N E

“No one can serve two masters...” (Matt. 6:24)

Don't get too chummy with the world or the things of it — even a little bit.

Let's ask God to reveal anything, or anyone we've been getting too chummy with.

Don't leave any “store rooms” open to the world — Be like Nehemiah, throw the “worldliness” out!

Focus up to God, not down on this world — this is the greatest commandment!

Keep enjoying the Fathers love!