



Sermon: "The Unbelievers' Suicidal Love of Darkness"

Scripture: John 3:17-21

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Introduction (v. 17):

God's loving mission of redemption is intrinsically **beautiful**. It is the greatest masterpiece of **love** in all of history.

I. Spiritual Condemnation is the Consequence of Deadly Unbelief. (v. 18)

A. Unbelief is a self-condemning **revelation**. (18b)

What is Condemnation? To remain under the **wrath** of God under a sentence of spiritual **death** (to "perish")

- *Scripture: John 1:10; 3:16; 3:36; 5:26-29*

The difference between the believer and unbeliever does not lie in the guilt or innocence of either; it lies in the different **attitudes** they take toward the "light."

B. Unbelief is a personal **rejection** of Jesus. (18c)

To not believe in Jesus' name is to reject is to reject all that He is:

God (John 1:1)

The Word (John 1:1, 14)

The Creator (John 1:2)

Life (John 1:4a)

The True Light (John 1:4b, 9-10)

Son of God (John 1:14, 16, 34; 3:16)

Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36)

To reject Jesus' name is to reject God's one and only plan for **salvation**.

- *Scripture: John 3:14-17; 1 John 1:8-9*

Jesus did not come into a **neutral world in order to save some and condemn others.**

He came into a **lost world in order to save some.**

II. Persistent Unbelief is the Result of a Suicidal Love of Darkness. (v. 19)

Why does mankind naturally reject God's plan of love and light?

- Is God's plan **inapplicable**?
- Is God's plan **inadequate**?
- Is God's plan **unreasonable in its demands**?

Man does what man **loves** and the consequences are **fatal**.

- *Scripture: James 1:14-15; Rom 8:13*

III. Suicidal Love of Darkness Leads to a Passionate Rejection of Exposure. (vv. 20-21)

- A. The light of Christ is repulsive to unbelievers for it exposes mankind's evil nature.
- The light of Christ exposes impurity and immorality
 - The light of Christ exposes guilt and shame.
- B. The light of Christ is attractive to believers for it reveals God's gracious work.
- The light reveals that the believer is not superior in their own nature.
 - The light reveals that the believer's good deeds are the result of the work of God.

“While the lover of darkness shuns the light out of fear of exposure, the lover of light does not prance forward to parade his wares with cocky self-righteousness, but “comes into the light,” so that it may be seen plainly what he has done has been done through God.” Dr. D.A. Carson

Conclusion: Will you continue to love yourself to death or will you love the Son for Life?

Questions to Consider:

1. How do you resolve the seeming conflict between John 3:17 and John 5:27? (Hint: Consider the context)
2. Why is it so significant that verse 18 says the unbeliever is condemned “because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (v. 18)
3. Why can't a person claim that God's plan of salvation is inapplicable to them, inadequate for them or unreasonable in its demands?
4. Why does mankind naturally love the darkness and evil deeds? (v. 19-20)
5. How does “coming into the light” reveal that our righteousness “has been done through God?” (v. 21)
6. The Puritan John Owen said, “Be killing sin or sin will be killing you.” In what ways might this be true for both the unbeliever and believer?