

1 John 2:15-17

Do Not Love the World

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. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

A group of first-graders had just completed a tour of a hospital, and the nurse who had directed the tour asked if any of them had questions.

Immediately a hand went up. A little boy asked “How come the people who work here are always washing their hands?”

Great question young man “They are ‘always washing their hands’ for two reasons.

First, they love health; and second, they hate germs.”

In more than one area of life, love and hate go hand in hand.

A)A husband who loves his wife is certainly going to exercise a hatred for anything that would harm her.

B)The Psalmist declared Ps. 97:10 “you that love the Lord, hate evil”

C)Paul the apostle instructed in Romans 12:9 “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good”

D)Here in our text today: John reveals that those who love the Lord – cannot also love the world
1)John gives us three reasons why we are to not love the world.

#1 Because of what the World is.

A)First what is meant by the World?

B)The NT word world has at least three different meanings.

1)It sometimes means the physical world, the earth:

“God that made the world [our planet] and all things therein” (Acts 17:24).

C)It also means the human world, mankind: “For God so loved the world” (John 3:16).

D)Sometimes these two ideas appear together: “He [Jesus] was in the world, and the world [earth] was made by Him, and the world [mankind] knew Him not” (John 1:10).

But this warning, to “Love not the world!” is not about the world of nature or the world of men.

A)The Bible says in 1 Timothy 6 God gives us richly all things to enjoy!

B)He made the earth and the beauty of it for us to enjoy –

1)God is an Artist – blesses us with his ability.

C)And we are definitely called by the Lord – to be reflections of his heart in loving the people in the World.

1)Not just Christians but lost people too – who need Jesus.

D)Recall -Jesus told his Disciples – this is how the world will know that you are my disciples –

1)Love for one another.

So what does John mean when he admonishes us to NOT LOVE THE WORLD?

A)When John uses the word World; he is speaking of an invisible spiritual system that is opposed to God and Christ.

B)Think about how We use the word world in the sense of a system in our daily conversation.

1)The TV announcer says, “We bring you the news from the world of sports.”

C)“The world of sports” is not a separate planet or continent.

D)It is an organized system, made up of a set of ideas, people, activities, purposes, etc.

1)And “the world of finance” and “the world of politics” are likewise systems of their own.

D)Behind what we see, in sports or finance or politics is an invisible system that we cannot see;

1)but we can see the effects of these systems work.

So the World speaks of a system -This system is what Paul has in mind when he writes in Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this World –

A) System of belief an ideology that is seeking to conform us – Squeeze us into a mold

B) The Message and Motto of this system is We are people who act independently from God

C) Indictment in the book of Judges concerning the people of Israel – Everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

D) That is what this System is pushing us towards –

Started with Adam and Eve in the Garden –
Forbidden Fruit

A) They ignored what God said and did what seemed best to them.

B) This System is appealing/ because it is broad –
1) each person gets to create their own goals for their Priorities – what they will pursue

C) Each person gets create their own standards of Morality – what is right and wrong –

D) It is a system that is controlled by Satan
“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19, nasb).

Jesus called Satan “the prince of this world” (John 12:31)

A) His System uses three Devices to Seduce us V.16
¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

B) Magazines and movies and our whole world of Social Media –are constantly using these 3 Devices

C) These same devices trapped Eve back in the Garden:

1) Satan tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [*the lust of the flesh*], and that it was pleasant to the eyes [*the lust of the eyes*], and a tree to be desired to make one wise [*the pride of life*], she took of the fruit” (Gen. 3:6).

D) Ever heard of FOMO – Fear of missing out – that is not a new thing – started back in the beginning

E) Satan tempted Eve – If you eat of this fruit – your eyes will be opened and you will be like God –

1) And if you don’t you won’t – You are going to miss out – FOMO – Eve gave into the temptation.

Social media & Advertising – Play on these 3 Devices

A) Influencers – Influence you in these areas –
Indulge the flesh -

B) “The flesh” does not mean merely “the body.”

C) The lust of the flesh includes anything that appeals to man’s fallen nature.

God has given man certain desires, and these desires are good.

A) Hunger, thirst, weariness, and sex are not at all evil in themselves.

B) There is nothing wrong about eating, drinking, sleeping, or sex in their right places

C) But when we indulge these desires and make them the priority that is when they become sinful lust.

Hunger is not evil, but gluttony or overeating is sinful.

A) Thirst is not evil, but drunkenness is a sin.

B) Sleep is a gift of God, but laziness is shameful.

C) Sex is God’s precious gift when used rightly;
1) but when used wrongly, outside of marriage it becomes immorality.

And this system of the world is constantly tempting us to indulge these fleshly appetites

A) Alcohol commercials – great looking people – really fit – having an amazing time – Super bowl ads

B) They never show the person the next day with their head over the toilet –

1) trying to get over a hangover

C) Or the person getting arrested for a DUI

And the media loves to portray the best sex as forbidden sex!

A) But they don’t show the damage that adultery does to a marriage or a family/ So 1st lust of the flesh

B)The second device that the world uses to trap the Christian is called “the lust of the eyes.”

C)We sometimes forget that the eyes can have an appetite! (People say- “Feast your eyes on this”?)

The Eyes are a gateway to the heart and mind.

A)The system of this world loves to appeal to our eyes in order to get us to indulge our Flesh

B)Watch some influencer – talk about how amazing their life has become because of this product –
1)we have to have it.

C)In the USA - In 2025, brands are expected to spend an estimated \$9.29 billion on influencer marketing campaigns.

D)The influencer marketing industry globally was worth 21.1 billion dollars in 2023

1)No wonder being an influencer is the Top dream job of kids 13-17 yrs old today.

So this system of the World – uses the Lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes

A)To appeal to the pride of life.

B)This is the message: If you can acquire this – experience that – or become one of these –

1)then you will be happy satisfied and accepted.

C)You will have made it in this world and have something to show for your life and efforts

1)You will be loved and respected by others

D)People every day are being sucked into this mindset

1)Some People go into major debt to have the appearance of a lifestyle that they can’t afford.

But it is all a lie – none of that brings lasting satisfaction –

A)It instead sends people on a perpetual quest for more.

B)The flesh is never satisfied – More experiences, more things, greater high

C)Only Jesus can satisfy the longing in our souls !

D)He is the one who satisfies the longing- soul – fills the void in your heart – YOU TODAY!

So we are not to love the World – because of what it is! A system that is contrary to the heart of God.

A)#2 We can’t love the World for what it does –

B)It is a system that draws people away from God.V.15 If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

C)Jesus said you can’t serve two masters –

A person who tries to live with one foot in the world and one foot in the Lord –

A)IS Setting themselves for a fall.

B)Easier to pull someone up or down? – Down

C)Trying to live with one foot in the world and one foot in the Lord is a miserable WAY to live.

Two much of the World to enjoy the Lord –

A)Bible study become boring – hard to worship because you feel condemned

B)But the other problem is you have too much of the Lord to really enjoy the world – you know better –

1)So Condemnation and guilt plague heart

C)Sin is pleasurable for a season – a moment – Fun Sinning ?

1)End of it is death and destruction

Sin Destroys your relationship with God/ others – Destroys your Joy and Peace

1)I see Christians trying to live as close to the line as Possible without crossing over!

B)PROBLEM THE LINE OF MORALITY IS CONSTANTLY MOVING

C)Don’t hug the line – Pursue God!

So John says – don’t love this world because of what it is – A system that is against God.

A)Don’t love this world because of what it does –

B)It seeks to get us to live lives independent of God where the goal is to indulge your flesh

C)Live to please you as #1.

#3 Do not love the World because it is passing away. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;

A) There is an expiration date on this world and this System –

B) Burn with a fervent heat!

C) Red tags – temporal – Green tags Eternal

Question: Would you invest in a company that is going under? – Not wise right?

A) People invest all their time effort, resources and energy in things that are not going to last.

B) You know what is eternal – People are eternal

1) Eternity with Jesus or Separated from Jesus

C) Invest in people.

God's Kingdom is eternal. Invest in his Kingdom!

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

This world is fading – don't invest here.

A) I am not suggesting wrong to save for retirement – of course not – RESPONSIBLE

B) We don't know how long we are going to be on this planet – NOT A BURDEN to our kids

C) But we also need to remember – we can't take anything with us – No UHAULS – in heaven

D) Can't take it with you – but you can send it ahead!

1) LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN

E) Live with eternity in View – Later is longer

1) People living for this world only – are like people rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic

“He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep/ to gain what he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot

So John is making a contrast here: Those who really love God – are not going to be in love with this world

A) That is what real love does – It becomes singular in it's focus

B) Prior to meeting my wife – I had dated several other women. – Looking for the one.

C) Met Denise – Didn't take long realize -she was the one.

1) Lost all interest in pursuing other girls – I only wanted to pursue her – win her.

D) I have been pursuing her for 38 ½ yrs now – Still enjoying the Chase! 😊

Because I love her – I am not pursuing anyone else

A) Men who say they love their wives and pursue other women – and flirt with other women

B) They really don't love their wives – they love themselves.

1) Or might love their wives to a point – but You love yourself more

C) People who say they love God – and pursue the things of this world – Love themselves more

D) Constantly trying to please their fleshly lust!

Those who love God – learned that the most fulfilling life is living a life that pleases God.

A) Made to live in relationship with God – made to bring glory to God - That is Life!

B) There was a time in the teaching of Jesus – that crowds were finding what he was saying difficult

1) Leaving in large numbers

C) Jesus turned to his disciples and said: Are you going to leave me also?

D) Peter stood up and said: Lord where would we go – in you are the words of Eternal life.

1) Nothing compares with you Lord!

Notice the promise John gives at the end of V.17 but he who does the will of God abides forever. = Constantly experiencing the life of God – Abundant life

A) But what does it mean to do the Will of God?

B) Probably the #1 Question people ask me is How can I determine what the will of God is for my life.

C) There is a General will of God and a Specific – The General is the same for all of us.

D)The Specific is singular for you in your life –
Involve things like – your calling your vocation –
1)who you will marry.

The Specific is fluid – it is flowing – it is ongoing
revelation

A)that is being revealed in each season of your life

B)But here is what many people fail to realize:

1)Discovering what the Specific will of God is for
starts with living in the General will of God

C)There is no mystery to that -

**So let me close today by giving you 4 things that
Bible clearly tells us – is the will of God.**

A)#1 **That you be saved:** ⁹The Lord is not slack
concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but
is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any
should perish but that all should come to repentance
2 Peter 3:9

B)Why are we still here? Why hasn't the world
passed away yet- MORE SAVED!

C)Gospel – Came – Died – Rose – Lives

D)So #1 Saved – come into relationship – that is the
starting point – Doorway to abundant life

E)Everything else is connected to living in that
relationship-

1)Our ability to experience and live in the abundant
life is connected to these things.

**#2 That you would be Sanctified – Set apart to
God and from the world –**

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that
you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that
each of you should know how to possess his own
vessel in sanctification and honor. 1 Thess. 4:3

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of
God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable
service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but
be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that
you may prove what is that good and acceptable and
perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2

In the same way a Husband enjoys the fulness of his
relationship with his wife by being set apart for her

A)We experience the Fulness of our relationship with
God by being set apart to Him – surrendered

#3 That you would Shine

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you
may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

1 Peter 2:15

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may
see your good works and glorify your Father in
heaven. Matthew 5:16

Another part of experiencing the fullness of this
abundant life – We were made to Shine

A)Jesus is in us – Shine out of us –

B)Lights in the darkness – Our Purpose

#4 That you would be Satisfied

18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

A)Note Give thanks not FOR EVERYTHING –

B)BUT IN EVERYTHING

C)Recognition that God is on the Throne and I know
that I am loved

D)Lord you have a purpose for this in my life – I am
Satisfied in you.

David who experienced so much of what this world
has to offer – penned these words –

A)His Realization – True life is really only found in
God–

4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, Passion –
Desire That will I seek: Pursuit – seek
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the
days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in His temple. Psalm 27:4

B)Lord all I want is more of you – Your presence

C)Know all that we need – may He be all that we
want!