

Do Not Love The World

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1 John 2:15-17

The Book of 1 John

The audience for the book of 1 John is believers (*1 John 2:12,13,14, and 5:13*). John uses a writing style of contrasts: light vs dark; life vs death; truth vs falsehood; and love God vs love the world. John's purpose in writing 1 John is clarified in the following verses:

- *1 John 1:4 ... so that our joy may be made complete*
- *1 John 2:1 ... so that you may not sin*
- *1 John 5:13 ... so that you may know that you have eternal life*

1 John 2:15-17

❖ "World" is used 6 times in 1 John 2:15-17 and in this context means a system opposed to God, an invisible spiritual system of evil.

A. We are not to love the world because of what it is.

- The "world" is a system opposed to God.
1 John 5:19; 1 John 4:4
Colossians 2:8 ... the elementary principles of the world
Ephesians 6:11-12 ... the world forces of this darkness
John 12:31 ... the ruler of this world shall be cast out
1 John 4:3; 1 John 3:1
- The "world" and the children of God are opposites.

The Progression of Loving the World

Ephesians 2:12 ... without God
James 4:4 ... friendship with the world
Titus 2:12 ... worldly desires
2 Peter 1:4 ... corruption that is in the world
James 1:27 ... stained by the world
Romans 12:2 ... conformed to this world
Galatians 4:9 ... enslaved

B. We are not to love the world because of who we are as children of God.

- Light and darkness do not coexist
- Love of God and love of the world do not coexist

God wants us to be holy.

1 John 2:1 ... sinless
Ephesians 2:10 ... walk in good works
Romans 6:17-18 ... servant of righteousness
2 Corinthians 6:14-17 ... separation
2 Corinthians 7:1 ... be holy
Philippians 2:15 ... blameless

1 Thessalonians 4:7 ... called to holiness

Titus 2:13-14 ... purified

James 1:27 ... keep oneself unstained by the world

1 Peter 1:15 ... holy in all manner of life

1 John 3:7 ... do righteousness

3 John 11 ... follow that which is good

❖ God wants us neither CONFORMED TO the world, nor CONTAMINATED BY the world.

C. We are not to love the World because of its effect on us to promote sin.

- Sin unleashes the capacity for raw evil; sin blinds us to anything beyond our own selfish desires.
- Loving the world promotes sinful behavior.

Three Gateways of sin

“Lust” refers to a strong desire for satisfaction beyond the bounds designed by God. John identifies three very specific areas.

Lust of the flesh

- Our rebellious, fallen nature, our propensity to sin, our “Adamic” nature

“Not everything attractive is an inducement to do evil, but in every temptation there is the element of attractiveness. Each of us is particularly vulnerable to certain evils. When these temptations enter our lives they evoke responses from deep within our beings. If we focus our minds on them ... begin to rationalize and justify them ... they become increasingly dominant forces in our lives. An act of sin is often the result of a prolonged series of ungodly thoughts. This mental embracing of evil in the privacy of our minds brings us to the next stage of temptation which is the consent of the will. At this point we have already sinned, and unless we repent, it is only a matter of time and place before the act follows. We often live with the consequences of some sin for the rest of our lives.” – C.S. Lewis

Romans 7:15 ... I hate what I do

Romans 7:18 ... flesh has nothing good about it, evil is present

Romans 13:14 ... make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts

1 Peter 2:11 ... abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul

Ephesians 2:1-10 ... depraved, indulgent, children of wrath...BUT GOD

- Romans 8 describes how the power of sin is broken in the life of a believer. The flesh is not eradicated, but is neutralized by the Holy Spirit.
- Galatians 5:19-21 describes what the lust of the flesh produces. A Christian does not regularly practice these things.

Lust of the eyes

Joshua 7:11,21 ... Achan saw, stole, coveted, hid

2 Samuel 11:2 ... David saw a woman bathing

Job 31:1 ... Job made a covenant with his eyes

Matthew 5:28 ... everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her

- We see things and we want them; we are bewitched by beauty
- We are captivated by the appearance without any thoughtful analysis of real value.

Genesis 3:5-7 ... eyes will be opened; saw that the tree was good; delight to the eyes; desirable...

- Eyes have an appetite and Satan wants to lure you into an expression of that appetite.

We are not to love the world because it incites sin thru the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.

Boastful pride of life

James 4:16 ... boasting in arrogance is evil ... haughtiness, puffed-up

Philippians 2:3 ... vainglory, empty conceit

Galatians 5:26 ... challenging one another, envying one another

- Our desire to maintain our image through acquisitions, possessions, positions of power, prosperity gospel (health, wealth, and beauty), is the “boastful pride of life.”

D. We are not to love the world because of its destiny, where it is going.

1 John 2:17 ... the world is passing away

1 Corinthians 7:31 ... the form of this world is passing away

- We are eternal, the world is disintegrating. The world’s system is self-destructing.

2 Timothy 3:13 ... evil men get worse and worse

Revelation 6:16-17 ... wrath of the Lamb, tribulation, refers to the ultimate and final stage of destruction.

Revelation 8:7 ... the earth, trees and grass burned up

Revelation 18:3,11,23 ... merchants of the earth (commerce) perish

Revelation 18:22 ... no music, no machinery, no work

- Satan’s system is self-destructing, including its lusts.

...*BUT* we belong to a whole different dimension, our citizenship is in heaven, we live in the heavenlies.

1 John 4:4 ... Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world

1 John 5:5 ... he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God overcomes the world

John 16:33 ... I [Jesus] have overcome the world

- Christians have overcome the world, WE NEED TO ACT LIKE IT!
- If you are not a Christian, you are being victimized by the system, exchanging the truth of God for a lie.

Do The Will Of God

- Develop self-discipline

- Don’t constantly seek to be entertained

- Police the idols in your life

Romans 13 ... Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 2 ... Possess the mind of Christ

Endnote:

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