

Do Not Love the World

1 John 2:15-17

THE WORLD DENIED. 1 John 2:15

1. The Christian is commanded to not love the world.

- John uses the term “world” (Gk. κόσμος = cosmos) to mean different things:
 - The universe or the creation. John 1:10: ...*the world was made through Him...*
 - Mankind in need of reconciliation with God. Jn 3:16; believers (1 Jn 2:2), un-believers (Jn 9:39; 17:9)
 - The sinful world system operating in rebellion against God. 1 Jn 2:15 ‘organized flesh’ Ref. James 1:27

2. The Christian is commanded to not love the things in the world.

- The world manifests itself in specific, tangible ways: could be objects, ideas, people, philosophies, etc.
 - John is not saying that material things are evil. (His opponents do say this!) Not Gk. cosmic dualism (Plato)
- Robert Law, *The Tests of Life*: “Do not court the intimacy and the favor of the unchristian world around you; do not take its customs for your laws, nor adopt its ideals, nor covet its prizes, nor seek fellowship with its life.”

3. The love of the world is not compatible with the love of the Father. Mt. 6:24; James 4:4; 1 John 5:19

THE WORLD DESCRIBED. 1 John 2:16

1. The world is described as *the desires of the flesh*.

- This refers to fallen, sinful desires arising from within us. Ref. Gal 5:19-21
- Note: not all desiring is evil. It actually has positive connotations in: Phil 1:23; 1 Th 2:17; Lk 22:15
- Note: flesh is not necessarily evil. Jesus came in the flesh. 4:2; Jn 1:14: *the Word became flesh...*

2. The world is described as *the desires of the eyes*.

- This refers to fallen, sinful desires arising from outside of us. Gen. 3:6; Joshua 7:21; 2 Sam 11:2
- The eyes are the front door to the heart!

3. The world is described as *pride in possessions*.

-NAS: *the boastful pride of life*. NIV: *the boasting of what he has and does*

- This refers to taking pride in what we have (possessions) or achieve. Same word in 3:17
- The idea is one of ‘practical, concrete means of living.’ (Gk. βίος = Bios “life”).

→ Application: Do people look at your life and see that you’re living for another world? Another set of values? Do they see godly ‘foolishness’ in the way you live? (generosity, hospitality, witnessing, parenting)

4. These do not come from the Father, but from the world.

THE WORLD DYING... 1 John 2:17

1. The world is dying. “passing away” Ref. 1 John 2:8; 1 Cor 7:31

- When we speak of someone who died we say they “passed away.” John says: the world is dying!

2. The desires of the world are passing away too.

3. The one who does the will of God abides forever.

- Contrast: ‘BUT...the one who does the will of God abides forever. = remains, lasts, lives

APPLICATIONS

1. Ask: In what specific ways am I personally inclined toward loving the world or the things in the world?

2. Pursue: Go to what truly gives life! World = dying. Jesus = living: I am the life!

- Name it in prayer with Jesus. Acknowledge that He is life.
- Jeremiah 2:13... broken cisterns

3. Persevere in your resistance to sin: the lust of the flesh IS dying.

- It is weakening. RIGHT NOW it is losing its power.

4. Rejoice: God has given a remedy to rescue you from the snare & penalty of sin: 1 John 5:4-5.

Daily Prayer for the Heart

Lord, grant me a deep and lasting **desire for Your Word** and a **delight in Your Word**,
...and a **desire for You** and a **delight in You**.

Lord, mortify (put to death) the sinful **inclinations of my heart** and sanctify the **inclinations of my heart** (replace my sinful inclinations with good and holy inclinations),
...that I would have an instinct away from things that are not godly, and be drawn toward what is godly.

Lord, mortify (put to death) **my memory**—anything you want me to no longer remember (past offenses against me or that I have committed, sinful memories, dreams, or wrong thinking about my life, You, others, or the world)
...and sanctify my memory. Let me forget the things You want me to forget, and remember the things You want me to remember—in the way that You want me to remember them.

Lord, mortify (put to death) **my imagination**—the things about which I dream, imagine, envision, picture
...and sanctify my imagination. Grant to me a holy imagination, that I would dream about, imagine, envision, and picture the images that You want me to have in my head and heart.

Lord, give me **an undivided heart** that I may fear You above all else (Psalm 86:11), filled with both **godly sorrow** for sin (my own and others) and **godly joy** for salvation.

In Jesus' powerful Name, Amen.