

## “Fallen Desires”

1 John 2:15-17; Mark 12:29-31

- Genesis 1:28: “fill the earth” and “subdue it” and “have dominion” → “CULTURAL mandate”
- Genesis 3: Sin enters the picture. Satan uses lies to deceive about God, His goodness, His plan.

### **TWO EXCLUSIVE LOVES. 1 John 2:15**

**1. Do not love the world.** John uses the term “world” (Gk. *κόσμος* = cosmos) to mean different things:

- 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 17:9)
- The sinful world system operating in rebellion against God. 1 Jn 2:15; Ref. James 1:27

**2. Do not love the things in the world.**

- The world manifests itself in specific, tangible ways: objects, ideas, images, people, philosophies, etc.

**3. The love of the world and the love of the Father are mutually exclusive. Mt. 6:24; James 4:4**

- Matthew 6:24: *No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*
- James 4:4: *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

### **FALLEN WORLD, FALLEN DESIRES. 1 John 2:16**

**1. The “desires of the flesh”—fallen, sinful desires arising from within us.**

- Gal 5:19-21: *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**2. The “desires of the eyes”—fallen, sinful desires arising from outside of us.** Ref. Gen. 3:6; Joshua 7:21

- The eyes are the front door to the heart.
- Matthew 6:22-23a: *The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.*

**3. The “pride in possessions”—taking pride in what we have (possessions) or achieve.**

- NAS: *the boastful pride of life.* NIV: *the boasting of what he has and does*
- 1<sup>st</sup> two are about lusting after what we DON'T have, the 3<sup>rd</sup> is about boasting in what we DO have.
- Note: progression from desiring (lust) to possessing: Even when we get what we want—we still sin!

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

- They come from a world system in organized rebellion against its Creator.

### **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**

**1. Do not trust or follow your desires—your desires can deceive you.**

- Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
- Proverbs 14:12: There is a way *which seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

**2. God can change your desires. Ephesians 4:17-24; Romans 12:1-2**

- Psalm 37:4: Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**3. Shepherding your heart and desires.**

- CULTIVATE a CULTURE. → You can acquire a taste for new things.

→ Self-government of my affections & desires....Shepherding my own heart under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

- Psalm 103:5: He satisfies your desires with good things.

1) Daily PRAYER.

2) Daily TRUTH—setting before your mind and heart what is TRUE and BEAUTIFUL.

## 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 **desires and inclinations of my heart** and sanctify the **desires and 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.

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.

- Psalm 27:4: One thing have I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord  
and to inquire [meditate] in his temple.

→ 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."

- Ephesians 4:17-24: Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup>They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup>But that is not the way you learned Christ!— <sup>21</sup>assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- Romans 12:1-2: I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Note: not all desire is evil. It has positive connotations in Phil 1:23; 1 Th 2:17; Lk 22:15.