

“THE LOVE GOD HATES”

1 John 2:15-17

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Sunday, October 22, 2017

Those who truly love and follow Jesus Christ must not fall in love with the things of this world, but rather with the Father who gives them everything they need.

I. KNOW WHAT YOU ARE IN CHRIST AND CANNOT LOSE.

1 John 2:12-14 (An Aside About the Church)

Wherever you are at in your Christian walk, God wants you to be encouraged by His grace so that you will grow more.

- A. Little Children: You are forgiven!
This is the foundation!
- B. Fathers: You know the Father!
This is the goal!
- C. Young Men: You are victors in the faith!
This is the means!

II. KNOW WHAT THE WORLD OFFERS BUT CANNOT GIVE.

1 John 2:15-17 (An Aside About the World)

You must choose your love and then maintain your choice: You love either the world or the Father, but not both.

- A. The Command. 2:15
The world cannot give you what you need.

The “world”: A system of values that is opposed to God and that characterizes those who reject Him.
- B. The Cause. 2:16
The world cannot give you what it promises.
 - 1. Desires of the flesh appeal to our appetites.
 - 2. Desires of the eyes appeal to our affections.
 - 3. Pride in possessions appeals to our ambitions
- C. The Consequence. 2:17
The world cannot give you what will last.

EVALUATE WHETHER YOU LOVE THE WORLD OR THE FATHER

- ✓ What do I seek with more favor: the wealth and honors of the world, or the riches of grace and the approval of God?
- ✓ Which has the greater attraction: the pleasures of the world, which are only for a season, or those pleasures at God’s right hand, which are for eternity?
- ✓ Wherein lies my confidence: in the money I have in my bank accounts or investments, or in the living and faithful God, who has promised to supply all my needs?
- ✓ What causes the deeper sorrow: a temporal loss, or a break in my fellowship with God?
- ✓ Upon which do I get more joy: spending money for personal comforts and luxuries, or investing money to further the gospel?
- ✓ What most dominates my mind: thoughts and schemes after worldly advancements, or resolutions and efforts to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord?

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION

1 John 2:15-17

- What are some ways that worldliness is often misunderstood? How should we understand worldliness, biblically?
- Why does John not give us the option, which seems possible, to be partially committed both to God and to the world?
- Does “not loving the world” mean that it is wrong for a Christian to seek to succeed in business or a career? Why or why not?
- How can we who live in affluence (compared to much of the world) know when enough is enough? How do we choose a permissible level of luxury?
- What are some things we need as God’s image-bearers that the world cannot provide?
- Why are asceticism and isolationism not the ways to godliness? What are the dangers of these approaches?
- What are “values”? How are a person’s values revealed?
- How does loving the world decrease our capacity for loving God?
- Why do people often choose to love the world? Why do people hesitate to do the will of God?