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## *Love Not the World*

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Holding her favorite dolls in both arms a little girl complained about them to her mother. "Mamma, I love them and love them and love them, but they never love me back."

This could be God's complaint concerning the majority of mankind. He has loved us, loves us and continues to love us, but few love Him in return. Why? They are in love with this world. John warned, "*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. 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. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever*" (1 John 2:15-17).

Why are Christians forbidden here from loving the world? After all, God so love the world (John 3:16). It does not mean all of humanity which God loves and we should love. In the context of 1 John 2:15-17 "world" is used six times. In the text, "world" does not mean the physical planet earth created by God (Ps. 90:2). Instead, "world" refers to the evil world system which is under the control of Satan. "*The whole world lies in the power of the evil one*" (1 John 5:19). This definition alone should warrant not loving the world, however, John goes on to give the first century Christians five good reasons not to love the world.

### **Loving the World and Loving God Are Mutually Exclusive**

Demas, Paul lamented, deserted him "*having loved this present world*" (2 Timothy 4:10). Love for the world separated Demas from Paul. Love for the world also caused us to depart from God. It is not possible to love the world and God at the same time. God demands first place in our lives (Matt. 6:33). "*You cannot serve God and mammon*" and "*where you treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Matt. 6:24,21). Christ said, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind*" (Matt. 22:37). If this command is implemented, there will be no room left in the heart, mind and soul to love the wicked world. Furthermore, "*friendship with the world is hostility toward God*" (James 4:4).

### **The World Did Not Originate With God**

The reason love for the world excludes love for God is that all that is in the world is not of God. All that God has made is good, yes, very good (Gen. 1:31). This evil world originates not with God, but with Satan all those who fall for its alluring attractions. Anything that is not of God is not going to last.

### **Loving the World Involves...**

Loving the world involves Satan's strategy in tempting man to fall in love with the world. These include the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Loving the world includes *the lust of the flesh*, that is, the carnal appetites of the flesh or the animal appetites. Paul gives several lists of these sins (Gal. 5:19-21; 1

Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:3-7; Col. 3:5). God gave us desires to be fulfilled in a lawful way. The world offers us alternative ways to satisfy our desires which appear to be more exciting and fulfilling. Satan used this appeal on Eve when she "*saw the tree was good for food*" (Gen. 3:6). However, when Jesus was tempted by Satan to turn stone into bread (Mt. 4:3), He made "*no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof*" (Rom. 13:14).

Loving the world involves *the lust of the eyes*. Ever heard the expression "feast your eyes on this"? Well, the eyes have an appetite. The eye is the "*lamp of the body*" and "*if the eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness*" (Matt. 6:22-23). Many have been mesmerized by what they have seen in the world. Eve saw that the forbidden fruit "*was a delight to the eyes*" (Gen. 3:6). David lusted after a bathing beauty leading him to commit adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11:2). Achan coveted the forbidden treasures of Jericho (Josh 7:21). Lot lifted up his eyes toward the green pastures and pitch his tent toward Sodom (Gen. 13:10-11). In contrast, Jesus was shown all the kingdoms of the world, but refused Satan's short-cut (Matt. 4:8-10). He looked to the Will of God to fulfill His mission (Matt. 26:39).

Loving the world involves *the pride of life*. This arrogant attitude is puffed up over the possessions and accomplishments of life. The ego cries out for honors, titles, pedigrees, offices, etc.. It clamors for "my rights, my life, my time, my body, my future..." Eve saw "*that the tree was desirable to make one wise*" (Gen. 3:6). Some of the Jews believed Jesus but would not confess Him because, "*they loved the*

*praise of men more than the praise of God"* (John 12:42,43). Ananias and Sapphira lied to make themselves appear to be more than they were (Acts 5:1-11). Yet, Jesus would not succumb to the temptation to cast Himself off the Temple wall (Matt 4:5). Jesus knew, *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* Therefore submit to God. Resist he devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:6,7).

### **Love for the World Is Temporary**

Man is deceived into believing that the joys of this sinful world are lasting; in reality, they is very temporary and perishable. Nobody in their right mind buys stock in a company that is sure to go bankrupt. Nobody books a cruise on a sinking ship. No reasonable person would love a world that his sure to be burned up and be destroyed forever. To love this transitory world is to share in its destruction. Loving the world is the ultimate fatal attraction.

### **Loving Obedience to God Only Leads to Life Everlasting**

The opposite of loving the world is not only loving the Father (verse 15), but also doing the Will of the Father (verse 17). True love for God involves obeying God's Will (John 14:15,21;15:10; 1 John 2:5; 5:3). Loving the world obstructs obedience to God's Word. The Will of God is the precise antithesis of *"all that is in the world."* One letter makes a difference: some love the world and some love the Word.

The reward of not loving this world is to inherit the next. Loving this world will result in losing everything. Loving God will succeed in gaining everything.

Paul warned, *"If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed!"* (1 Cor. 16:22). And Jesus said, *"be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"* (Jn. 16:33).

Your are Invited to attend the

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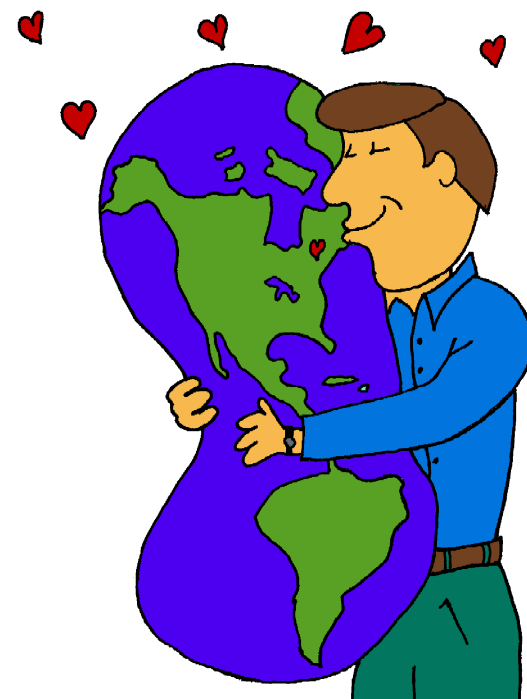
**Service Times**

**Sunday**  
Bible Study.....9:30 am  
Worship Service.....10:30 am  
Worship Service.....5:00 pm

**Wednesday**  
Bible Study.....7:30 pm

# Love Not the World

1 John 2:15-17



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