

I. Introduction and review.

II. Do not love the world because such love can't coexist with love for God. v. 15

A. What is wrong with loving the world?

1. Doesn't the Bible say *God so loved the world*? 2:2 John 3:16
2. The same words can be used in different contexts with different meanings.
3. *World* has different connotations in different contexts 2:2 4:9,14 John 1:10
4. Here John is speaking of the world system which is opposition to God. 5:4,19 3:1,13 4:5-6 John 3:19 12:31 14:30 15:18f 17:14 Rom. 12:2
5. *Love* can also be used with different connotations. John 3:19 II Ti. 4:10 (3:2)
6. To love the world is to put it first in your affections. .

B. What is wrong with *the things in the world*?

1. John is not saying:
 - a. Material things are inherently evil. I Ti. 4:4
 - b. That we should withdraw from the world: Monasticism. 4:17 John 17:15-16
 - c. That there are certain objects which are "worldly".
2. Worldliness is a matter of the heart! Mark 7:20-23

C. The love of the world is mutually exclusive to the love of God. Mt. 6:24

1. Is John speaking of our love for God or His love for us? 2:5 4:19
2. You have been chosen out of the world. John 17:6 Col. 1:12f
3. Love God with an undivided heart. Mt. 22:37 Luke 14:26 Js. 4:4
4. Why love those who are completely opposed to you. 3:13 John 15:18f 17:14

III. That which is of the world is opposed to God. v. 16.

A. Do these correspond to:

1. The threefold attraction of the forbidden fruit? Gen. 3:6
2. Jesus' three temptations in the wilderness? Mt. 4

B. The lust of the flesh. Gal. 5:16-17,19-21 Eph. 2:3 Ro. 1:24 13:14 Titus 2:12 I Pe. 4:2

1. John is not saying that all physical desires are wrong. I Tim. 4:3-5
2. He is using *flesh* in its sense of fallen human nature. Rom. 8:7
3. Those consumed by the lusts of the flesh live as if there is nothing else in life .
II Ti. 3:4 Phil. 3:19 They have no appetite for the things of God. John 3:5-6
4. Fleshly desires are never satisfied. Ecc. 5:12 Pr. 23:31-35
5. Christians can backslide into worldliness. Ro. 13:15 Js. 1:14-15 II Ti. 2:22

C. The lust of the eyes. Deut. 5:21 Ex. 20:17 Mt. 5:28 Gen. 3:6 II Sam. 11:2 Josh. 7:21

1. Your eyes have spiritual significance. Mark 9:47 Isa. 5:15
2. Worldlings think what their eyes see will bring them happiness.
3. They are blind to spiritual realities. II Co. 4:18
4. Believers need to watch their eyes. Mt. 5:28-29 Job 31:1 Ps. 73

D. The boastful pride of life. II Ti. 3:1-2 Rom. 1:30 Js. 4:16

1. They are self-glorifying and insensitive to the glory of God. Rom. 1:23
2. Sadly many Christians have exchanged the God's glory for worldly glory.

E. Worldly things exclude God. Co. 3:1f

IV. Don't love the world because this world is passing away. v. 17

A. The world is already on its way out. v. 17a 2:8b,18

- 1. Everything in this world system will pass away and is passing away. II Pe. 3:10f**
- 2. Nothing in the world can give you lasting satisfaction. Is. 55:2 John 4:13 Jer. 2:13**
- 3. Why invest your life in that which is bankrupt?**

B. Those who are in fellowship with God enjoy eternal life. v. 17b 5:13 II Co. 4:18 5:17

- 1. Those who love God do the will of God. 5:3 Jo. 14:15 7:17 Mt. 7:21,24-27 Ps. 40:8**
- 2. What does it mean to do the will of God? I Co. 10:31**
- 3. Only those who live for God are satisfied. John 4:14 Isa. 55:1-2 Ps. 23:5**
- 4. Those who love God will have everlasting joy in the life to come. 3:1-2 Jo. 11:26**

C. Jesus exemplifies all John is talking about.

- 1. He loves God and perfectly does His will. John 4:34 5:30 6:38 9:31 Mark 3:35**
- 2. He has already overcome the world. 3:8 Jo. 16:33 12:31 I Co. 7:31**
- 3. He gives us eternal life.**
- 4. When you know and love Christ: it is not hard to give up the world!**

V. Concluding applications: Choose your love.

Discussion questions

- 1. What are the possible meanings of the word *world*? What does *world* mean in this passage?**
- 2. What is meant by the love of the world? v. 15**
- 3. Why is it impossible to love both God and the world? v. 15**
- 4. What does worldliness have to do with material things? v. 15**
- 5. Why do Christians get caught up in worldly desires? v. 16**
- 6. Explain what is meant by each of the characteristics of worldliness mentioned in verse 16.**
- 7. What is the best antidote to the attractions of the world? v. 16**
- 8. Why is it foolish to love the world? v. 17**
- 9. How can John say the world is already passing away? v. 17**
- 10. Why can't you avoid worldliness by keeping a set of rules (*dos and don'ts*)?**