

# Love Not The World

**1 John 2:15-17**

Study #6

(Not entirely original with me)

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Fellowship with God requires that there is no room for hatred in our heart toward our brother *“He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.”* (1 Jn 2:9)
2. But there is one sense in which we are not to have love at all! *“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.”* (1 Jn 2:15)
3. A very simple imperative is therefore given to us: *“Love not the world...”*
  - a. But do we understand the meaning of this command?
  - b. Do we appreciate the importance of this command?
4. In this study, we will try to:
  - a. Shed some **light** on what John is saying
  - b. Provide some **motivation** to seriously heed what he commands in this passage  
[Let’s begin by answering the question **“Why should Christians not love the world?”**]

## I. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE WORLD IS (15a,16)

### A. THE “WORLD” IN THIS PASSAGE...

1. It is **NOT** the “physical world”
  - a. I.e., God’s creation - **Gen 1:1**
  - b. For it is “very good” - **Gen 1:31**
2. It is **NOT** the “human world”
  - a. I.e., mankind
  - b. Indeed, God Himself loves the world of men - **Jn 3:16**
3. **RATHER, it is the world of “sin”, the world of “evil”!**
  - a. I.e., the “sphere” in which sin, evil, and Satan dominates
  - b. Just as the phrase “the world of sports” describes the domain in which sports dominates, so this “world” is one in which sin dominates

### B. THREE THINGS IN PARTICULAR MAKE UP THIS “WORLD”...

1. **“The lust of the flesh”**
  - a. This phrase refers to unbridled desires of the flesh - cf. **Ga 5:19-21**
  - b. Note that these desire can be expressed both:
    - 1) Sexually (fornication, adultery, licentiousness)
    - 2) Socially (hatred, contentions, jealousies)

## 2. “The lust of the eyes”

- a. This refers to the unlawful longing for things which we can see
- b. It can be summed up in one word: “covetousness”
- c. A modern day expression could be “materialism”
- d. How serious is this? Consider **Ep 5:5-7; Co 3:5-7**

## 3. “The pride of life”

- a. This would include pride based upon such things as:
  - 1) Age
  - 2) Experience
  - 3) Ancestry
  - 4) Past accomplishments
  - 5) Money, position, power
- b. The folly of trusting in such things is seen in **1 Co 1:26-31**

## C. A FEW PASSING OBSERVATIONS...

### 1. Each of these three things often strike harder at different times in our life:

- a. The **young** are most often affected by the “lust of the flesh”
- b. The **middle-aged** are usually afflicted by the “lust of the eyes”
- c. The **aged** are likely to be plagued with the “pride of life”

### 2. There seems to be a tendency to consider one more serious than the others

- a. We seem more concerned about sins involving the “lust of the flesh” than sins in the other categories
  - 1) E.g., which is worse, fornication or covetousness?
  - 2) E.g., which do we consider more serious, adultery or jealousy?
- b. If we are not careful...
  - 1) While fighting strong against immorality...
  - 2) ...materialism and pride may “sneak in” the back door!

Whether it be immorality, materialism or pride, it is still part of the “world” we are not to love! But why?

## II. BECAUSE OF WHAT LOVING THE “WORLD” DOES (15b)

### A. IT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO LOVE THE FATHER...

#### 1. *“If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*

- a. I understand “the love of the Father” means “to have love for the Father”
- b. Instead of “the Father’s love for us”, for He loves us even as sinners - **Ro 5:8**

#### 2. John is not the only person to say that if we love the world, we cannot love God:

- a. James taught that “friendship with the world is enmity with God” - **Ja 4:4**
- b. Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters - **Mt 6:24**

#### 3. Our sinful pride may rebel against this thought, but we simply are not able to love the world and God at the same time!

## **B. TO SEE WHY, LET'S DEFINE "THE LOVE OF THE FATHER"...**

1. What does it really mean for me to love the Father?
2. According to John, it means that I keep His commandments - cf. **1 Jn 5:3**
3. To this Jesus agrees - **Jn 14:15,21; 15:10**

## **C. IF WE LOVE THE WORLD, WE CAN'T KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS...!**

1. **E.g., if you are driven by "the lust of the flesh"...**
  - a. To commit fornication, adultery, etc.
  - b. Then you can't keep God's command not to defraud your brother - cf. **1 Th 4:3-6**
2. **E.g., if you are overcome by "lust of the eyes"...**
  - a. So that you always want more, and to hold on to what you have
  - b. Then you won't keep God's command to help the needy - cf. **1 Jn 3:16-17**
3. **E.g., if you are filled with "the pride of life"...**
  - a. So that you consider yourself more important than others
  - b. You will not be able to keep the command to imitate Christ - cf. **Ph 2:3-5**

So it is impossible to faithfully serve God and Jesus, thereby showing our love for them, if we allow ourselves to "love the world"!

## **III. BECAUSE OF WHERE THE "WORLD" IS GOING (17)**

### **A. "THE WORLD IS PASSING AWAY"...**

1. This is true in regards to our individual lives - cf. **1 Pe 1:24; Ja 4:13-14**
2. It is also true concerning everything that we leave behind - cf. **2 Pe 3:10**

### **B. IN CONTRAST, "HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF GOD ABIDES FOREVER"...**

1. This is because he will be blessed to enter the heavenly kingdom - **Mt 7:21**
2. Even his "works" will follow with him - **Re 14:13**

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Isn't this what we all want? To one day hear these wonderful words... ***"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. (Mt 25:21)***
2. Even if we could gain the whole world in this lifetime...
  - a. Is it worth it? - cf. **Mt 16:26**
  - b. Yet most people are selling their soul to the devil and this world for a whole lot less!

3. Let's give serious heed to John's admonition, and make sure that our affection is in the right place: loving the Father by keeping His commandments!

Are you keeping the commandments of God? - cf. **Mt 28:18-20**

(Material from Mark A. Copeland)