

The Loving Command Not to Love

1 John 2:15-17

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Love of God **must** take precedence over every other human relationship, personal goal, or material possession.

Colossians 3:5-10; Titus 2:11-14

The refusal to love the world or anything in the world begins with an all-consuming love for the Father anchored in His steadfast love for you!

1 John 5:19-21

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- What affected you the most in today's teaching? What challenged you or encouraged you? Did you learn anything?
- What is "*the world*" we're commanded **not** to love in 1 John 2:15-17? Why do we need to be told not to love it?
- Daryn said, "*Anything and everything – the best of things and the smallest of things can become our functional gods – our idols.*" Do you believe this? Why or why not?
- Read 1 Peter 2:11. How does someone at war behave? Why do we forget about this war so easily?
- Look at the categories John gives us in 1 John 2:16. Why are these struggles so difficult to identify? Where are they located? What are we almost always tempted to do when battling worldliness?
- How do you presently resist love for the world? How can you build this resistance up?
- Where can we go to fill our hearts and minds with the Father's love for us?
- Read 1 John 2:17 slowly and out loud. What perspective does this verse lovingly put in our face?

This warning is directed *inward* at our hearts

If you and I weren't attracted to or ever seduced by the world, if it wasn't a trap, if it wasn't the greatest of distractions and a way that ultimately ended in death, we wouldn't have to be warned!

Think: desire to expose the widespread exchange of temporal pleasures (love of this world) over eternal joys (love of the Father)!

1. A Potential Love (1 John 2:15)

Love for the world is something we must actively resist and guard against

"The world" = the various ways that people live in sin against God.

CJ Mahaney: "...*loving the values and pursuits of the world that stand opposed to God...it is to gratify and exalt oneself to the exclusion of God. It rejects God's rule and replaces it with our own. It exalts our own opinions above God's truth.*"

Timothy Keller: *“What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.”*

1 Peter 2:11

YOU are in the middle of a war.

2. An Incompatible Love (1 John 2:15)

Love for the world is never compatible with love for the Father.

James 4:4

The big “IF” of verse 15

We need our hearts so filled with the Father’s love that it has no room for any love that’s incompatible with it!

You might be having an affair
and not even know it

Or greatest challenge today is seduction by the world.

3. A Hidden Love (1 John 2:16)

Love for the world is hard to detect because its location is in the heart.

The cravings of sinful man

Love for the world is present when there’s an all-consuming concentration on “things.”

Philippians 3:19

The lust of his eyes

Lust’s deceit is in its invitation – it promises something that it can never deliver: satisfaction.

Idols have a way of spiritually blinding us to the grace available to us! **Jonah 2:8**

Greed is SO hard to see!

The boasting of what he has and does

This is about overconfidence in something other than God that makes us lose any thought of dependence on God.

A Permanent Love (1 John 2:17)

Two loves compared