

## Love Test (Part 2): Loving the World 1 John 1:15-17

### Introduction

We have been studying the series of tests that John has given us to help us find assurance to know that we are saved. We looked at the theological test, the sin test, knowing God test, and the love test. Here John continues the love test and helps to delineate further the difference between the saved and the unsaved. Two Sundays ago, we talked about loving your brother and how that it was an identity of a Christian. Today we will be looking at loving the world, which John MacArthur helpfully describes as the love that God hates.

God hates sin and rebellion against Him, and He will pour out His judgment against those who rebel against Him. **Proverbs 6:16-19** (*These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren*) talks about the 7 things that God hates: pride, murder, heart that devises evil thoughts, swift to do evil, liars, and strife. John introduces another thing that God hates...loving the world because he said that the love of the Father is not in a person if s/he loves the world. Paul experienced a heartbreaking loss when he had a friend that loved the world.

Paul writes in **2 Timothy 4:9**, urging Timothy to come quickly. Why? He said, in the next verse, that Demas had forsaken him, having loved this present world, and had departed for Thessalonica. Demas was a man who spent some time with Paul in his missionary journeys. In fact, he is mentioned several times in Paul's other letters, namely Colossians and Philemon. In **Colossians 4:14**, Demas was with Luke and Paul when he wrote the letter, and Paul considered him to be a fellow worker of Christ. In **Philemon**, Paul writes to the man who had owned the slave and urges him to take him back because the slave had become a Christian and wanted to make things right. Paul includes Demas in his letter in verse **24**, along with Luke and Mark. Paul calls him his fellow laborer. However, near the end of Paul's life, Demas deserts him, and Paul said that he loved the present world and had forsaken the gospel.

### I. The command not to love the world

- We are not to love the world because
  - We cannot serve two masters

**Matthew 6:24** *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve*

**John 15:18** *If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.*

**James 4:4** *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

**Note:** These are strong words that God has to say for those who love the world. You either love God or hate God. If you love the world, you are considered an adulterer and an enemy to God. Demas had shown his enmity to God through his defection. John says that if you love the world (as Demas had) then the love of the Father is not in you. You were never a part of the Father in the first place. As a Christian, however, we are separate from the world. Our citizenship is in heaven (**Phil 3:20**). What's more, Paul recounted earlier in the chapter that what he had learned as a Pharisee, he considered it garbage (**Phil 3:7**).

- It encourages us to sin
- It is not of God
- It is passing away (the world and its lusts)

***1 Corinthians 7:31b (NIV)*** *For this world in its present form is passing away.*

**Note:** This world is in a death spiral as everything is coming to a point where it will be destroyed by fire and be remade in the new heaven and earth. Sin and the systems will be gone...disintegrated and cast into the lake of fire.

worldly

- John does not mean:
  - Hating the physical world
  - Hating the people
- Loving the world and its things
  - World—system governed by Satan; always opposed to God

***Ephesians 2:2*** *in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the disobedience*

sons of

***1 John 5:19*** *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

- Loving the world means to give in wholly under the kingdom of Satan
 

***John 3:19*** *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

***John 12:43*** *for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*
- Loving the world's things—our concentration and devotion to worldly things
 

**Note:** This is not necessarily the objects that are sinful (all things by itself are not sinful) but it is the devotion to such things that are sinful

**Illustration:** TV by itself is nothing but a box of electronics...but a devotion to TV and the love of movies and allowing the worldly philosophies from it dominate our thinking is sinful.

## II. Identities of the world

- Lust of the flesh
  - Strong desire to fulfill the fleshly appetites in opposition to God
 

***Galatians 5:19*** *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Note:** It's any desire for anything outside of God's Law...any attitude, any thought, any word, any action that God forbids. It's the corruption of desires.

**Note:** Not all desires are bad...in the framework of what God has designed...sex in marriage, eating, pleasure in His creation and pleasure in other's company.
- Lust of the eyes
  - Covetousness—seeing what you do not have and wanting it and trying to get it
 

**Note:** Lure of the bodily desires is through the eyes. The world tries to make things attractive so we can look at it and desire it.
- Pride of life
  - Boasting ambition—looking down on other
 

**Note:** The boastful pride of life is the desire to be better than everybody else, to desire to tell everybody how much better you are.

- Two Biblical Illustrations

- **Genesis 3:1-7**

*Note: Lust of the flesh:* Stomach, bodily appetite, lust of the flesh, it isn't related to hunger, she had all kinds of things to eat. It was the idea that there was some satisfaction being withheld from her. It was good for food, the lust of the flesh, fulfill some desire, some appetite.

*Lust of the eyes:* she saw also that it was a delight to the eyes. It not only excited her...her sort of basic desire for the joy of eating food, it excited her in the beauty...she saw that it was a beautiful tree and that made it desirable. She was seduced by her hunger and she was seduced by her vision.

*Pride of life:* And then she also saw that the tree was desirable to make one wise...to be like God.

- **Matthew 4:1-11**

*Note: Lust of the flesh:* "The devil said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'" Forty days of not eating? Go ahead and make some bread out of those stones, You have the power, turn those stones into bread. Fulfill that hunger.

*Pride of life:* Satan was challenging Jesus to be popular...to start His ministry with popularity. That was a quick way to do it...the devil was urging Him with insinuations of people standing in awe of seeing angels catching Him and bringing Him down gently.

*Lust of the eyes:* Satan shows him the world...as far as the eyes can see. The "glories" of the kingdoms would be His if He would bow to Satan and worship him.

## Conclusion

If the things of this world are passing away...what happens to us believers? John says that if we do the will of God, we will abide forever. What is the will of God? **John 6:40 (NIV)** (*For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*) Those who do the will of God are believers and they are going to remain with Him forever!