

## You Are What You Love

### 1 John 2:15-17

*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. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

You have to love John's writings because he always tells us his main point.

John 20:31 - *these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

- 1 John 1:4 - *we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*
- 1 John 2:1 - *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*
- 1 John 2:12-14 - *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.<sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. <sup>14</sup> I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*
- 1 John 2:21 - *I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.*
- 1 John 2:26 - *I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you*
- 1 John 5:13 - *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Basically, John writes to expose false teachers and to give assurance to believers.

The key to the book really is 'joy.' John wants us to have it and he wants us to protect it. We can do this by loving the right things and not loving the wrong things.

Isn't it interesting that even when God says 'no' or 'don't,' he intends it for our best?

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### **First: Don't Love the World. 15**

*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.*

World = *kosmos*, but there are at least three different kinds of worlds

- 1 – Creation
- 2 – People
- 3 – Systems / Philosophies

May I say a word about systems? Our Democratic Republic is a system. When that system defies God's law, as ours does in many ways, God doesn't love that.

We also live in a capitalistic society. When that system tells you that your gender defines you first and foremost, that's a lie. God doesn't love that.

Don't love that world. Even God doesn't –

15b - *"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

There is no question that God's love is directed to the world

**John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world (people), that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."**

That 'world' in John 3:16 is not creation or systems, but 'people.' How do we know? John defines it in - "...that whosoever..."

Even John's Greek is among the simplest in the New Testament. He's a simple man – a fisherman - with a simple message and he writes simply (unlike Luke, a physician whose language style is more complex). He doesn't want anyone to misunderstand him. So...if we read just a bit further, John explains himself.

### **Second: Because the World is Just.... 16**

The world John is describing is defined by *"the things in the world."* What are those things?

*For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world*

From John's simple perspective, (and by the way, that doesn't imply naïve), the world is fundamentally comprised of three things:

- a) The desires of the flesh – If you could do anything you wanted to do
- b) The desires of the eyes – if you could have anything you wanted to have
- c) The pride of life – if you could be anyone you wanted to be

Mark 8:36 – “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his own soul? For what can a man give in return for his own soul?”

If you could do anything, have anything or be anything but it was contrary to God's love for you, it would not be worth it.

Simple John puts this in the simplest way. It's like a balance. Profit vs Loss

- Profit = *opheleo* = useful, benefit advantageous
- Forfeit = *zemioo* = to damage or suffer loss

Think of it like scales or a profit/loss sheet. Your eternal soul FAR outweighs this passing world.

I know this can be hard. The world is so present and it sometimes sucks all the air out of the room and the only thing left to breathe is its poison. It's the immediacy of the moment that wins our will. And Jesus and his reward seem so distant when the world will immediately reward us for siding with it. But...

### **Third: And This is Why You Shouldn't Love It. 17**

*And the world is passing away along with its desires,  
but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

You've read these books or seen these movies where a guy or girl sells their eternal soul to the devil in exchange for immediate gratification – wealth, a girl or guy, prestige, revenge, but then when the devil 'comes calling,' they are try to renig on the deal. Why? Because everyone knows the devil is not your friend.

- a) The world is passing away. 17a

#### 1. The Problem

2 Peter 3:3b-4 - ...scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

## 2. The Promise

Psalm 45:6 - *Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.*

Daniel 7:14b - ...his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Luke 1:33 – (Gabriel at Jesus's birth) - ...the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Hebrews 1:8b - *Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...*

Not only is the world passing away but...

### b) These desires are passing away

You know it's true. Remember how you wanted something so bad and then

- Something better came along
- Your passion subsided (after you bought all that equipment)

We are fickle creatures, and you may not want tomorrow, what you think you have to have today.

T - Psalm 37 –

You may ask, "How, Pastor, do I do retrain my desires?" Your **CG** has knowledge, experience and wisdom. You can work together to create the freeing steps for your life. This will require

- presence,
- honesty,
- follow-through and
- accountability

on your part. But you can do it.

In the interim,

### Conclusion:

Don't love the world because it is built on passing, misleading passions and both this world and your desires are changing. You are changing and God is going to change the world. And you are becoming what you love. If you love God, you live forever. If you love the world, you pass way with it.

This is God's word to you today -

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### Community Groups:

- 1 – Read the text
- 2 – Why does John say he wrote this epistle?
- 3 – Read verse 16.
- 4- What can the word, 'world' mean in Scripture?
- 5- How do we know what John means by 'world' in this text?
- 6 – What 3 things does the world consist of according to John?
- 7 – Define and give examples of 'the desires of the flesh.'
- 8 – Define and give examples of 'the desires of the eyes.'
- 9 – Define and give examples of 'the pride of life.'
- 10 – Share examples of how the world has tempted you in these three areas?
- 11 Read verse 17
- 12 - Why does John warn us about loving the world?
- 13 - What encouragements does Psalm 37 provide for you?
- 14 – How can your CG help you create a plan to overcome your world?