

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Do Not Love the World

Week of May 9, 2021 A.D.

Read 1 John 2:15-17

1. Why does God tell us not to love the world? Why does God tell us not to love “anything” in the world? Do you love the world? If so, how and why? Do you love anything in the world? If so: What are the things that you love? How do you express and demonstrate your love for those things? Why do you love them? Please explain each of your answers.
2. Refer to verse 15. What is “the love of the Father?” Is “the love of the Father” in you? If so, how would a person other than you describe “the love of the Father” that they see in you? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
3. According to John 3:16, a person who believes in Jesus shall have eternal life. Is it true that all believers in Jesus: (a) do not love the world? (b) do not love anything in the world? and (c) have the love of the Father in them? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
4. Refer to verse 16. Did God create everything? If so, what is the meaning of verse 16? Likewise, if God did not create everything, then is God – God? Please explain your answers.
5. Based on your answers to the preceding questions, what is the definition or the meaning of “the world” as used in these verses? Please explain your answer.
6. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Any person who loves the world does not love the Father.”
7. Refer to 1 John 2:16. Does a believer in Christ ever experience “the cravings of sinful man?” If so, is he or she truly a believer in Christ? Please explain your answers.

Read Galatians 5:16-18

8. How do these verses relate to 1 John 2:16 and to the questions found at paragraph 7 above? Do your answers create within you an attitude of hope or an attitude of despair? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

9. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “lust” as “an intense sexual desire” or “an intense longing for something”. The verse at 1 John 2:16 talks about “the lust of his eyes”. Is it always sinful to desire something that you see? If so, why? If not, when does seeing and desiring become “lust”? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

10. Refer again to 1 John 2:16. Why does God consider it sinful for a person to (a) boast of what he has and/or (b) boast of what he does? Are any of the sins which are mentioned in verse 16 “unpardonable” by God? In your opinion, how seriously do the sins which are identified in verse 16 interfere with and/or disrupt a person’s relationship with Jesus? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

11. Refer to 1 John 2:17. Will “the world” pass away? If so, how and when? Will your “desires” for the things of this world pass away? If so, how and when? Please explain in detail how your answers to these questions affect the decisions and the choices which you make each day?

12. Refer again to 1 John 2:17. Do you believe that you are going to live forever? If not, why not? If so, (a) why? (b) what is the primary focus of your daily life? (c) would the people who know you the best agree with your answer to (b)? and (d) what do you do each day to enable yourself to know and to do the will of God? Please explain your answers.

Consider: The world and its desires are very strong magnets which are skillfully used by Satan to take “good people” to hell. But the man who does the will of God overcomes the world and will live forever with God in the new heaven and the new earth. “You think about that.” Amen.