

“Love God, Not the World”

I John 2:15-17

Eastview Christian Campus Church

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Introduction

I John 2: ¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (NASV)

- A. The importance of “love” in First John.
- B. Love is the centerpiece of everyone’s worldview, whether it’s Christian or not.
- C. John is calling us to LIVE A CHRIST-CENTERED WORLDVIEW.
- D. Initial observations on the passage.
 1. The **TERMINOLOGY** (“love”; “world”)
 2. The **TENSE**: Every verb is *present* tense. (Cf. I Jn 3:7-8 “... the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸the one who practices sin is of the devil;...” NASV)
 3. The **TIE** between “love” and “the Father” (2:15): “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” Two possible ways of understanding this prepositional phrase:
 - a. GOD is the **SUBJECT** of the love—that is, the love is coming FROM God. It is God’s love for US. (cf. I Jn 4:10, 19)
 - b. GOD is the **OBJECT** of the love—that, is, it’s referring to love being directed TOWARD God. This is the meaning in I Jn 2:15.
- E. Main point: Love God, but do **DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD**.

I. A Qualification to Recognize (I Jn 2:15).

I John 2:15 ¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

II. The Qualities to Renounce (I Jn 2:16).

- A. Lust of the FLESH (e.g. “Sexual Atheism in the Church”).
- B. Lust of the EYES (e.g. some stats).
- C. The BOASTFUL PRIDE of life (I Corinthians 3:21; 1:31; Jeremiah 9:23-25; James 4:13-16).

III. The Consequences of Worldly Lust to Remember (I Jn 2:17a).

I John 2:17a ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts.

- A. Lusts are RELATIVE.
- B. Lusts are ATTRACTIVE.
- C. Lusts are DESTRUCTIVE.

IV. The Contrast to Recall (I Jn 2:17b).

- A. WHO is doing the will of God?
- B. The BENEFITS and BLESSINGS of LIVING a Christian worldview.
- C. It’s NOT REALLY RIDICULOUS.