



1 John 2:15-17

Do Not Love the World

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Do Not Love the Wicked World

1John 2:15a (NASB)

Do not love the world nor the things in the world.

- “Do not love” is imperative in the Greek
- “World” is ‘*kosmos*’ and here means the world in its sinful alienation from God
- The sinful *kosmos* hates God and His people (John 15:18, 19)
- The “things” in the world are described in vs. 16

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1

We Cannot Love the World and the Father

1John 2:15b (NASB)

If anyone loves the **world**, the love of the **Father** is not in him.

- “If” is a conditional that implies something that may or may not be true
- This warning applies to any who claim to love God but in fact love the world (antithesis)
- Our love for God is a work of grace (1John 4:10, 19)

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2

The World’s Sinful Lusts

1John 2:16a (NASB)

For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the **boastful pride of life** . . .

- “All” is comprehensive
- Each wicked motivation has a definite article
- “Lust” is *epithumia* which means ‘strong desire’
- The flesh is the whole person separated from God
- The world offers self-fulfillment now without God

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3

Lust Comes From the World Not God

1John 2:16b (NASB)

...is **not** from the Father, **but** is from the world.

- “Not from” . . . “But from” is a strong contrast
- God is not the source of sin (James 1:13, 14)
- What **is** from the Father is always good (James 1:17)
- The implication is that Christians should lay aside the sinful world and cling to the Father

Two Motivations With Two Contrasting Outcomes

1John 2:17 (NASB)

The **world is passing away**, and also its lusts; but **the one who does the will of God lives forever**.

- The sinful world system is transitory
- God’s will is revealed in scripture
- The Christian’s goal is to honor God by living for Him
- Jesus always pleased the Father (John 8:29)
- Jesus did the Father’s will (John 6:38)

Implications and Applications

- Understand the range of meaning for “world” (*kosmos*)
- We must be committed to God’s will
- We escape the world’s lust by the promises of God

Range of Meaning for “*Kosmos*”

From the Theological Dictionary of the NT

- World I = The Universe, The Sum of All Created Being
- World II = The Abode of Humanity, The Theater of History, The Inhabited World, Place of Human Affairs
- World III = Fallen Creation, the Setting of Salvation History, The Human World That Is Hostile to God

Living for God's Will

1Peter 4:2 (NASB)

so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, **but** for the will of God.

- We embrace suffering by resisting sin (verse 1)
- This implies a radical change of purpose from sin to God's will
- "But" is a strong adversative in the Greek
- Not "lust" BUT "God's will"

Believe the Promises of God

2Peter 1:4 (NASB)

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

- He promises to return and that we will be like Him
- "Divine nature" implies His communicable attributes
- We escaped living for lusts at conversion and believe He will complete His work