



Pray

How does 1 John 2:15-17 inspire you to pray? Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



Who Do You Love? | 1 John 2:15-17 Study Guide 6 for sermon on 2/7/2021



Introduction

When was the last time a dear friend gave you a stern warning? As we get older, these moments tend to happen less frequently. But many of us can point to times when an honest warning would have saved us from a bad decision.

1 John 2:15-17 is that type of pastoral warning. It is so easy to fall in love with the world, because it's usually subtler than we realize. Ever since Adam and Eve believed the serpent's tempting allure to trust their desires over the Word of God, we have been tempted by pleasure, power, and riches.



Overview

Context: 1 John 2:12-14 has already encouraged believers to continue in the faith, and the following section (2:18-28) describes those who have walked away from the faith. This section (15-17) is the hinge.

Structure:

- I. Command: Don't love the world (v.15a)
- II. Reason: Love God only (v.15b)
- III. Explanation: The world is passing away (v.16-17)



Engage

1. What do you think John means by talking about “the world?”
2. Are there any other Bible verses you can remember that mention “the world” used in a broad sense? How is the world talked about throughout the New Testament? (If you need help, see John 15:19; John 17:16; Romans 12:2; James 1:27; James 4:4)
3. Read Matthew 6:24. What parallels do you see with verse 15?
4. Lust is a strong word about an overwhelming or consuming desire. It’s the same word as “coveting” in the Tenth Commandment. What’s the distinctions do you make between lusts of the flesh and lusts of the eyes?
5. Of the three things we’re warned against, “pride in possessions” can sometimes be seen as virtue. In what ways does this warning challenge some versions of the “American Dream?”
6. The Bible never says that possessions are to be avoided – it says we should use them as faithful stewards for God’s kingdom rather than treasuring and hoarding them. What does biblical stewardship look like and how does it protect us from “pride in possessions?”
7. How does the perspective of verses like verse 17 and Isaiah 40:8 encourage us to remain faithful?
8. This section emphasizes love for God, while encouraging obedience. How does this shed light on the relationship between faith & works in the Christian’s salvation?
9. How would you describe someone who embodies 1 John 2:15-17? What sets them apart from the non-Christian peers?
10. If “we are what we love” and if “love motivates obedience,” then what are some ways we can continue to grow in our love for Christ? What are some daily, real-life threats that can eventually and subtly make our love for Christ cool down?