

Blaine Community Church
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Passage: 1 John 2:15-17

Main idea: We need to recognize that we are tempted to love of the world and the things in it, which is an idolatry that draws us away from the thing that should be the true object of our love...our Lord. We must also actively seek to identify and combat these temptations.

Read 1 John 2:15-17

Brief Summary: Why shouldn't we love the world and the things in it?

- Because we can't love the world and the Father at the same time (**vs 15**) since the world is not of the Father (**vs 16**), and
- Because the world is temporary, in contrast to the everlasting works and people of God (**vs 17**)

verse 15 "the world"

Uses of the word "world" (kosmos) used 184 times in NT, 100 times in John's Gospel/Epistles:

- The created planet (**Hebrews 1:2**),
- its inhabitants (**John 3:16**),
- things that are temporal & mortal as opposed to things that are everlasting & immortal (**1 Jn. 2:17**), or
- things that are spiritually aligned with Satan... the flesh (**James 3:15**)(**Ephesians 2:1-3**)

Summary: The created planet and its inhabitants became plagued with temporal & moral effects at the time of the fall, coming under the realm of Satan & control of the flesh.

In his book "Worlds Apart", William MacDonald refers to this situation as "the trinity of evil", saying "The devil is the enemy against us, the world is the foe around us, and the flesh is the traitor within us."

verse 15 "the love of (for) the Father is not in him"

No man can serve two masters (**Mat. 6:24**)

Friendship with the world is enmity with God (**James 4:4**)

verse 16 "the things in the world"

"The Things in the World" = a myriad of temporary and corrupt things that tempt us to commit idolatry

What are the "things in the world"? John seemed to think that they could all be summed up into the following 3 categories:

- desire of the flesh = bodily appetite or comfort
- desire of the eyes = visual appeal
- pride of life = a person's image in their own eyes, or in the eyes of others

These three things are all forms of idolatry...they are temptations for us to love or worship things or beings other than God. They can be seen in 2 other passages:

- **Gen. 3:6** The temptation of Adam & Eve
 - DOF = fruit was good for food
 - DOE = pleasant to the eyes
 - POL = desirable to make one wise
- **Luke 4:1-3** The temptation of Christ
 - DOF = stones to bread to satisfy his hunger

- DOE = viewed something vast to be desired from a vantage point
- POL = taunted Him to prove something about Himself

verse 17 “the world and its desires are passing away”

(2 Pet. 3:7,10) This earth and the works in it are reserved for judgement, to melt with a fervent heat.
(Rev. 21:1) The fulfillment of that judgment/destruction!

“The World” = a temporary and corrupt context that we are tempted to call “home”, but like Abraham in **Hebrews 11**, we are to live in this place “as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents”(9), seeking a “homeland”(14), waiting for another “city” & “better...heavenly country”(16) prepared for us by God.

verse 17 “ but he who does the will of God abides forever”

(2 Pet. 3:11-14) In light of this information about the world and the things in it, what manner of people ought we to be?

We are to invest in something lasting, not things that cannot endure (**Mat. 6:19-20**)

We are to set our minds on the heavenly, not the earthly (**Col. 3:1-5**)

We are to set our minds on the things of the Spirit, not the things of the flesh (**Rom. 8:5-7**)

We are to be in the world but not of it (**John 17:14-18**)

Application...putting the theory to practice

We need to be able to recognize when we are facing a situation that is tempting the desire of our flesh, our eyes, or our pride.

#1 Raise our awareness through prayer and the Word

Satan’s mode-of-operation has not changed! We are not to be ignorant of his devices/techniques/means of tempting us (**2 Cor. 2:11**)!

#2 Increase our resistance through prayer and the Word

Commonality between the 3 main passages:

“no temptation has taken you that isn’t common to man” (**1 Cor. 10:13**). Christ can help in our temptations because He has been tempted in “all ways” like us, but without sinning (**Hebrews 4:15**).

The relevance of Jesus’ responses to our situations:

- DOF...”man does not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God”
= Physical needs and ailments should cause us to abide more deeply in Him, because we recognize Him as the source of our strength. We should be putting as much or more effort into seeking His spiritual sustenance of us as we do seeking physical sustenance for ourselves.
- DOE...”you shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only”
= this is speaking of how we so easily worship what we see. We should not dwell on things that catch our eye. It interferes with our focus on/worship of God. We need to take every thought captive (**2 Cor. 10:3-5**)
- POL...”you shall not tempt the Lord your God”
= Pride is seeking that authority, entitlement and honor that belong to God alone. That was the exact downfall of Lucifer (**Is. 14:12-14**), and it’s the same concept that he tries to sell us: God has something that WE should have, and He is holding it back from us!!! We do not hold the right or means to be a final authority, to be the object of honor, to withhold forgiveness, to demonstrate anger, to be fulfilled by created things, etc.