



“Our Desires”

The Message
I John 2:15-17

Our God-given passion can be:

I. Misplaced - “If any man love” (V. 15)

We must refuse :

- A. **Humanism** - “Love not the world”
- B. **Hedonism** - “Love not the... things...in the world”
- C. **Heathenism** - “love of the father...not in him”

II. Misused –“all that is in the world” (V. 16)

We are at risk to:

- A. **Perversion** - “lust of the flesh”
- B. **Preoccupation** - “lust of the eyes”
- C. **Pretension** - “the pride of life”

Every glory that is not glory to God is vainglory, and it is amazing what paltry successes can produce vainglory.

III. Mismatched - “for ever” (V. 17)

We were redeemed to :

A. **Live** — “the world passeth away”

Today, through Christ, God plans in the heart of His redeemed people an Eden to which, in triumphant fact, Satan will at last have no moral access whatever.

B. **Love** — “and the lust thereof”

Not to keep up with the Jones, but to keep the Jones up!

C. **Learn** — “but he that doeth the will of God abideth”

Sentence Sermon:

“Believers are called to reject the world’s treasures, philosophies, and priorities while embracing God’s eternal value system.”

Additional Verses

- I John 4:4
- James 4:4
- John 15:18-19; 17:11, 14
- Proverbs 23:5
- Mark 4:19
- Galatians 5:17
- Matthew 5:28; 6:24
- James 4:16
- Romans 1:3
- II Timothy 3:2; 4:10
- Isaiah 55:7

Three (3) types of sins:

- Genesis 3:1-6
- Matthew 4:1-11
- James 1:13-15
- Galatians 5:19-21

Questions to Ponder:

1. Which word would you say is “most” important? Explain.
2. Who or what is the world?
3. What things of this world are attractive to you?
4. Is loving the world & loving the Father mutually exclusive?
5. What are some of the “lusts of the flesh?”
6. What do we call things that appeal to our eyes?
7. Is the problem of lust in our eyes? How can we fix it?
8. Why is the pride of life bad? What damage does it do?
9. Why the disclaimer in verse 16 from God?
10. What important contrasts can be seen in verse 17?
11. What are some practical steps I can do to prevent falling in love with this world?

INTRO:

Why don't we do the will of God?

- Don't know it
- Don't know how
- Don't want to
 - Believe we will miss out on something
 - The something is probably something we have seen
 - The something is probably something we have touched
 - The something is probably popular/desirable to the masses

*Desires dictate our priorities,
Priorities shape our choices,
Choices determine our actions.
Dalin Oakes*

“Our desires presage the capacities within us; they are harbingers of what we shall be able to accomplish. What we can do and want to do is projected in our imagination, quite outside ourselves, and into the future. We are attracted to what is already ours in secret. Thus passionate anticipation transforms what is indeed possible into dreamt-for reality.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

v. 15.

- Love not = agape – don't be giving your loyalty and unconditional love to this world...love the people but not the system
- The world = “kosmos” cp. Verse 2 - the current system...ideas, values, goals, and methods
- Neither the things = not only stuff but any pleasure or preoccupation that robs your passion for God's will.
- That are in this world = the ones that will not be found in the next world
 - Ecclesia – comes from root Kaleo which means to call and Ek which means Out therefore...we are **Called out of the World ones....**
- If any = 3rd class conditional....very possible, probable...
- Man love the world = present active subjunctive.... keeps on unconditionally loving the world...makes a habit of it...
 - Much more than just showing that you like something in this world or that you showed a little carnality....fellow Christians would want to cast doubt on your salvation for doing something worldly...**but** this is a habit of being caught up with and loyal to this world's values, methods, and attractions.
- The love of the Father = love **for** the Father ...is not operational at that point
- Is not in him = It is not possible to be loving on the Father while biting the hook of this world system...it is an allurements that steals our heart for God.
 - Mutually exclusive – II Tim. 4:10; Matt. 6:24

V. 16

- For = why we should not love the world...
- All that is in the world = collective use of the neuter....Not who datbut what that?
 - The lust of the flesh = the desire for that which satisfies any of the physical needs.
 - The lust of the eyes = desire to possess what we see

[The Ten Commandments](#) addressed the lust of the eyes in its prohibition against coveting. [Exodus 20:17](#) commands, “You shall **not covet your neighbor’s house**; you shall not **covet your neighbor’s wife**, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” Coveting can include a desire to have people, possessions, or status.

EVE - “pleasing to the eye” ([Genesis 3:6](#))

JESUS - “showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor” ([Matthew 4:8](#)).

The world is full of “eye candy,” glamor, and gaudiness. Materialism beckons with its promise of happiness and [fulfillment](#). A media-saturated society bombards us with advertising campaigns that might as well say, **“Covet this!”**

All that glitters is not gold, and the child of God knows that fame, fortune, and finery quickly fade ([Proverbs 23:5](#)).

Our eyes are set on Jesus ([Hebrews 12:2](#)). Our [view](#) is to eternity.

Cecil Alexander, the Irish hymnist, said it this way:

*“Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world’s golden [store](#);
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, ‘Christian, love Me more.’”*

- The pride of life = worth viewed as what we accumulate or how we can perform....

The pride of life can be defined as anything that is “of the world,” meaning anything that leads to arrogance, ostentation, pride in self, presumption, and boasting.

“desirable for gaining wisdom” ([Genesis 3:6](#)). Finally, Eve somehow perceived that the fruit would make her wise, giving her a wisdom beyond her own. Part of Satan’s lie was that eating the fruit would make her “like God, knowing good and evil” ([Genesis 3:5](#)).

Here is the essence of the pride of life—anything that exalts us above our station and offers the illusion of God-like qualities, wherein we boast in arrogance and worldly wisdom.

was the Messiah by an ostentatious display of power that was not in the will of God or His plan for the redemption of mankind (vv. 5-6). But Jesus, though He was “tempted in every way, just as we are” ([Hebrews 4:15](#)), resisted the devil and used the Word of God to ensure victory over him.

But perhaps his most evil temptation is the pride of life, the very sin that resulted in Satan’s expulsion from heaven. He desired to be God, not to be a servant of God ([Isaiah 14:12-15](#)).

. It is the root cause of strife in families, churches, and nations. It exalts the self in direct contradiction to Jesus’ statement that those who would follow Him must take up their cross (an instrument of death) and deny themselves. The pride of life stands in our way if we truly seek to be servants of God. The pride of life “comes not from the Father, but from the world.”

Recommended Resources: [Landmines in the Path of the Believer: Avoiding the Hidden Dangers](#) by Charles F. Stanley

- Is not of the Father = sins are not from God...He does not have any culpability when it comes to our sins.
- But is of the world = On the other hand, the world loves to tempt us and give us opportunities to sin.

A person whose character and personality are shaped by obedience to God will not be affected by the passing away of this world and its vain desires.

v. 17.

- And = continuing the negatives or downside of loving the world
- The world passeth away = not necessarily talking about the planet but this world system....it will be replaced with a much better system....a true theocracy where Christ will reign and rule justly. He will advocate things that don't tear people down but inspires them to greatness.
- And the lust thereof = the out of control desires and appetites
- But = contrast to the world passing away
- He that doeth the will of God = does what God's wishes ...who is this?
 - Jesus...for sure and
 - all those that walk in the Spirit.
- *Abideth = remains*
- *Forever = in perpetuity...without end.*
- - ***“Believers are called to reject the world’s treasures, philosophies, and priorities while embracing God’s eternal value system.”***

"What does it mean that we are not to love the world?"

In the Bible, the term *world* can refer to the earth and physical universe ([Hebrews 1:2](#); [John 13:1](#)), but it most often refers to the humanistic system that is at odds with God ([Matthew 18:7](#); [John 15:19](#); [1 John 4:5](#)). When the Bible says that God loves the world, it is referring to the human beings who live here ([1 John 4:9](#)). And as His children, we are to love other people ([Romans 13:8](#); [1 John 4:7](#); [1 Peter 1:22](#)). The [parable of the Good Samaritan](#) makes it [clear](#) we cannot pick and choose whom to love ([Luke 10:30-37](#)).

When we are told *not* to love the world, the Bible is referring to the world's corrupt value system. Satan is the god of this world, and he has his own value system contrary to God's ([2 Corinthians 4:4](#)). [First John 2:16](#) details exactly what Satan's system promotes: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Every sin imaginable can be summed up in those three evils; envy, adultery, pride, lying, selfishness, and more spring from those three roots.

Loving the world means being devoted to the world's treasures, philosophies, and priorities. God tells His children to set their priorities according to His eternal value system. We are to "seek first" God's kingdom and righteousness ([Matthew 6:33](#)). No one can serve two masters ([Matthew 6:24](#)), and we cannot be devoted to both God and the world at the same time.

When we enter God's family through faith in Christ, God gives us the ability to exit the world's rat race ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). We become citizens of

another kingdom ([Philippians 1:27](#), [3:20](#)). Our desires turn heavenward, and we begin to [store](#) up eternal treasure ([Luke 12:33](#); [Matthew 19:21](#); [1 Timothy 6:18-19](#)). We realize that what is truly important is eternal, not temporal, and we stop loving the world.

To [continue](#) to love the world the way unbelievers do will cripple our spiritual growth and render us fruitless for God's kingdom ([Matthew 3:8](#); [Luke 6:43-45](#); [John 15:1-8](#)). In [John 12:25](#), Jesus took this thought a step further when He said, "Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life." Not loving the world extends to our own lives as well. Jesus said if we love anything more than Him, we are not worthy of Him ([Matthew 10:37-38](#)).

In general, the term *world* in the Bible refers to the evil system controlled by Satan that leads us away from worship of God. John Calvin said, "The human heart is an idol factory." We can make idols out of anything. Any passionate desire of our hearts that is not put there by God for His glory can become an idol ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)). Loving the world is idolatry ([1 Corinthians 10:7](#), [14](#)). So, while we are commanded to love the *people* of the world, we are to be wary of anything that competes with God for our highest affections.