

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

1 John 2 – John addresses the virtue of love

- Love for one another
- Love for your brother
- If you hate – brother – still in darkness
- Does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes

1 JOHN 2:15. HE TURNED NOW TO A WARNING.

Do not love the world or anything in the world.

- The “world” (*kosmos*), considered here as an something hostile to God and his purposes.
- The world always exerts a seductive influence - which Christians should continually resist

Why resist it?

John 15:18–19

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

The world is not our friend

We are in it but not of it

All it aims at – to separate you from the love of God

To hinder you from doing His will.

Do not conform to it

Romans 12:2

Paul appeals to you therefore, brothers,¹ by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.² Do not be conformed to this world,³ but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Demas conformed to it and walked away from doing the will of God

2 Tim 4:10

For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia,¹ Titus to Dalmatia.

Conformity with world – is love for it

Love for the world – means hatred for God

Hate – love less

James 4:4

You adulterous people!^(a) Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- The world competes for the love of Christians and one cannot both love it and the Father at the same time.

That is why John continues to say – 1 John 2:15

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

Vs 16 – John specifies the contents of the world

- **For all that is in the world namely**
- **The desires of the flesh – lust - cravings**
- **The desire of the eyes – covetousness – wanting to acquire**
- **The pride of life – that comes from acquiring the things of the world**

Is not from the Father but from the world

- **These are worldly perspectives**
- **Not from God**

2:17.

- After all, **the world and its desires** are temporary and **pass away,**
- **but the man who does the will of God lives forever.**
- The word “lives” suggests “abiding life” of fellowship with God.
- This comes as a result of abiding in God’s will – doing his will, desiring him – more than
- the desires that passing away of the world
- vain desires.
- All under the world is vanity

Solomon in Ecc 1

Vs 2

*Vanity^(a) of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
³ What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?*

Ecc 1:14

¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity^(a) and a striving after wind.

All the things of the world are temporal

2 Cor 4:18

So we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal

Set your minds on the things that are above

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips

That is why we must endeavour to Love God more than the world

HOW TO DO THIS

I. Be Committed to God

Psalm 37:5-6

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

As a Christian you should surrender to God's will every day – not yours

- Not your agenda – but his
- Your will has to die so that His is kept alive

Paul 1 Cor. 15:31 said, "I die daily."

- Being yielded to God's will bring you more victory and peace.

II. Be Contented with God

1 .Tim. 6:6-10

But godliness with contentment is great gain, **7** for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. **8** But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. **9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

- Circumstances may be adverse or favorable, but if we know we are in God's will, we can be satisfied.
- We may be content even in the midst of trials if we realize God is working in our lives (Rom. 8:28)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[a] for those who are called according to his purpose.

III. Be Confident in God

"... this is the confidence that we have in him ... he heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

A. Our faith increases when it is challenged and put through the fire.

B. Confidence assures us of answered prayer (1 John 5:15).

Confidence in God brings His favor, for faith pleases Him (Heb. 11:6).