

Do not love the world Notes

History repeatedly shows a sobering pattern as it records human pride rising high enough to challenge God, before ending in reality.

Again and again, **voices have claimed** independence from God, mocked His authority, or even tried to take His place.

But pride always meets its limit, and in every generation, there stands an unchanging truth, declared in **Romans 14:11**:
“Every knee shall bow... every tongue shall confess to God.”

Looking back, we can see reminders of just how true this is:

- Consider the story of Tancredo Neves, a Brazilian politician elected president in 1985. During his campaign, he made the bold statement, “*If I get 500,000 votes, not even God would remove me from the presidency.*”
He did receive the support he needed, but just one day before taking office he became seriously ill, and died from post-surgery complications.
- **Thomas Andrews** was inspired to build a ship that would be legendary during his time. After the construction of the largest British luxury liner of its day, a reporter asked Tom how safe the Titanic would be. With an ironic tone, he said, “Even God himself couldn’t sink the ship”. Other sources cite the Captain of the titanic Edward John Smith as giving that statement... but we will never know for sure as it is lost to history after they both tragically died the same night in 1912... after their ship struck an iceberg.
- **Timothy Treadwell** he was an environmentalist, documentary film maker and a Grizzly bear enthusiast that once said “I see myself as the God who will protect all of the animals that have no other way of voicing themselves. I am God, I see that, and I accept who I have become with open arms.” Tim was killed while being eaten by a bear.

These accounts may sound different on the surface, but they all point to one thing: the danger of elevating ourselves beyond our limits and dismissing God due to foolish pride.

No matter how confident human declarations become, they never override God’s authority.

That’s what makes the message of **1John** so powerful. Instead of claiming strength or control, it calls us to humility—acknowledging our sin and our need for help. And if we are honest with ourselves **1 John** will give us hope: not in ourselves, but in our Advocate, Jesus Christ, who stands on our behalf before the Father.

I. The first 6 verses of **1 John chapter 2** are about our Relationship with God:

1Jn 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1Jn 2:2 He is the propitiation (reconciliation) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1Jn 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

1Jn 2:4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1Jn 2:6 whoever says he abides (– *remains*) in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

John starts by using the phrase My little children, showing his compassion and love for the believer while expressing the fact that we are sinners.

1. He says, “I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin” he is telling us sin is present in our lives, but it is never meant to be normal.
 - Notice John doesn’t say that you will not sin, rather that you may not sin, because in chapter 1 verse 8 we are told:

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- John makes it clear that sin is an undeniable fact in every believer’s life.
- No one can truthfully claim to be beyond sinning.
- The struggle occurs when our flesh resists depending on Jesus for victory over sin.
- And the only way this will ever change is through the promises of God, that we will be perfected through resurrection.

- So, John gives us hope while we are still sinners **verse 9 of chapter 1** assuring us

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- This is not an escape clause. John is not giving permission to sin—he is removing **despair**, not **responsibility**.
 - These truths are meant to lead us toward holiness, not to give us an excuse to remain in our sin.
 - The Christian life **is not** built on managing sin—the aim is to overcome it.
- John is rejecting sin as **unavoidable**, our sin occurs when we step away from what God has already provided for us, when we choose to stray from under the umbrella of His protection.

2. But as we are told here in chapter 2 at the end of verse 1 in His wisdom God already knew we would sin and provided us with an advocate Jesus Christ.

a. The term advocate can have several meanings, it can be:

- one who defends or maintains a cause
 - an advocate of the liberal arts education
- one who supports or promotes the interests of a group
 - a consumer *advocate*
- But here it is used in the context of one who pleads the cause of another
 - *specifically* : one who pleads the cause of another before a tribunal or judicial court

b. Jesus is interceding for us while Satan (name means “accuser”) is pointing out our sins and frailties before God, just as he did with Job (**Job 1:6-12**).

- What I find interesting is the contrast between a human defense lawyer who argues that their client is innocent whether they are or not.
 - And our Advocate, Jesus Christ, who does not deny our guilt. He acknowledges it fully—and then pleads on our behalf as the One who has already paid the penalty for our sin. **It is finished.**

So how do we know or have full assurance to say I am covered by the blood of Jesus...well, verse 3 gives us that answer:

1Jn 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

1. We’re called to obey Jesus and keep His commands.

Jesus Himself said **Joh 14:15** If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

- If you’re not really comforted by these verses, I get it. As a sinner, they troubled me until I understood them.
 - Living in obedience means to grow in the knowledge of Jesus so we will show His character more and more by the way we live.
 - In other words, are you growing in your walk with the Lord, are you competing for the prize as Paul would say. Because it’s an ongoing process.
 - Our thoughts, actions and words will reflect more of His character and less of our sin nature as we grow.
- a. Our thoughts are powerful, they directly influence
 - Our thoughts influence the goals we pursue, how we react to events and form our beliefs. In fact that’s why

2 Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, **and take every thought captive to obey Christ,**

The words we use influence relationships. Words stir emotions, provoke actions, they can incite conflict or bring about harmony. Our words reflect our inner selves; they greatly affect our mental and emotional well-being. We need to choose our words carefully as they have a profound impact on others. Words are so important Jesus said:

Matthew 12:36–37 “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words, you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned”.

As you grow in your walk with the Lord, your life should increasingly reflect the character of Jesus. Others ought to see compassion, kindness, humility, and patience taking shape in you.

That’s exactly what Paul points to in **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them,

- Our lives are not random or accidental; they are intentionally shaped by God. The way we live is meant to reflect the work He is doing within us.
- Our actions, then, become a visible expression of our faithfulness to the Lord. They reveal our position in Christ as evidence of a transformed life.
- John drives this truth home by spelling it out in verses 4–6:

1Jn 2:4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1Jn 2:6 whoever says he abides (– *remains*) in him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.

- The **first 6 verses of Chapter 2** are given so believers won’t settle for a cycle of sin and confession—but will pursue a life that increasingly reflects our fellowship with Christ.

II. **1 John 2:7-14 these next 5 verses show us how to evaluate our growth in Christ:**

1Jn 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

1Jn 2:8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

1Jn 2:9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.

1Jn 2:10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

1Jn 2:11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1. At first, this might seem confusing—because Jesus *did* speak of a “new commandment” at the Last Supper **John 13:34**. And here in verse 7 John says it’s not a new commandment then in verse 8 He says it is new?
 - a. John isn’t contradicting himself—he’s looking at the same command from two angles.
 - It’s “**old**” because the call to love has always been part of God’s message. From the beginning, God’s people were told to love Him and love their neighbor. There’s nothing novel about the command itself.
 - But it’s also “**new**” because Jesus has now **revealed the true depth and standard of that love**. When He says, “*Love one another as I have loved you,*” He raises the bar from principle to **person**.

What **2 Corinthians 4:6** for it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- It’s not new in **origin** — they’ve heard it from the beginning.
- It is new in **expression** — Jesus lived it out perfectly.
- It is new in **experience** — believers now see and share in that love through Him.

In other words: The command didn’t change, **the light got brighter**.

- b. Before going to His friend Lazarus—who was about to get the most unexpected wake-up call in history—Jesus spoke to His disciples, saying...

John 11:9-10 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the **light of this world**. **10** But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because **the light** is not **in** him.

- In the immediate context, Jesus is responding to His disciples’ fear about returning to Judea (where people wanted to harm Him).
- What Jesus is essentially saying: as long as He is walking in the Father’s timing and purpose, He will not stumble or be stopped before His mission is complete.
 - “Walking in the day” means living in the center of God’s will for your life with clarity and security, being guided by the Holy Spirit.
 - “Walking in the night” means moving alone—relying on our own understanding and abilities.

- c. These next 3 verses **12-14** John addresses our growth.

1Jn 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1. John is not speaking about physical age groups—he's using familiar stages of life as a picture of our spiritual growth.
 - Each group represents a different level of Christian maturity, helping us to see where we are in our walk with God and giving us an example of how we are meant to grow.
 - The stages of maturity start at different times in life for everyone, as an example:
 - I was 26 almost 27 when I was a **child**, an immature or new believer.
 - By age 33 I was a **young man**, I knew basic doctrine, the Holy Spirit was growing me and maturing my walk with the Lord daily and I was using my gifts.
 - A Father is still learning and growing but is able to pour into the lives of others
 - He is mature in the knowledge of the word of God,
 - Able to use and apply the experiences God has brought him through to help others
 - Typically displays more patience and understanding because the fruits of the Spirit have taken hold in his life
 - And can see many things as God sees them.

III. These next 3 verses 15-17 are about the worldly attacks on our relationship with Christ and our walk.

1Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

1Jn 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1. Verse 15 is a powerful warning from John. We live in a world bombarding us with fleeting pleasures, shiny distractions, and self-glorifying ambitions, that constantly demands our attention—and more than that, our affection.
 - a. It's not **just** about what we *do*, it's about what we *love*.
 - We need to understand that:
 - Advertising isn't just selling products—it's shaping desires.
 - Social media isn't just sharing moments—it's shaping identity.
 - Culture isn't just influencing behavior—it's shaping devotion.
 - And John cuts straight through all of it with a command that feels sharp and uncomfortable:
 2. **“Do not love the world.”**
 - This isn't a suggestion. It's a command.
 - We can all avoid certain sins outwardly and still *love the world inwardly*.
 - John is not talking about the physical world or the people in it, we are called to love people and we should be grateful for the world God created in all its splendor.
 - What John is talking about is a **system of values that opposes God**.
 - This passage forces a question we often avoid: **What has your heart?**
 - This really isn't about behavior... **first, it's about our affection.**
 3. “If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.”
 1. John is drawing a hard line.
 - a. Not because God is harsh—but because **divided love destroys devotion**.
 - God's word has many examples of this 1 of them being:

When Solomon was young, he was deeply attached to God and followed His statutes faithfully (1 Kings 3:3).

However, he also loved the political and personal advantages of marrying many foreign wives and concubines — 700 wives and 300 concubines, from many pagan nations (1 Kings 11:2-3).

While he initially honored God, his heart was pulled in multiple directions by love for these women, their cultures, and the political alliances they represented.

As Solomon aged, the influence of his many wives' turned his heart away from the Lord. He began to worship other gods, such as Ashtoreth of the Sidonians and Milcom of the Ammonites (1 Kings 11:4–6).

This is a **divided heart** — loving God but also loving worldly pleasures, political power, and foreign alliances.

The results were devastating:

- **Solomon was spiritually unstable:** his devotion to God weakened, and he became lukewarm in his faith like the Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:15–16.
- **Solomon's actions created a Divided kingdom:** God tore the kingdom away from Solomon and gave it to his servant (1 Kings 11:11).
- **Sadly, after starting so strong Solomon experienced a Loss of fellowship with God:** His divided loyalty created a barrier between him and God, as seen in Elijah's challenge to the Israelites: "How long will you waver between two opinions?" (1 Kings 18:21)

☒ You can't pursue God's will while being driven by worldly approval or self-centered desire

- In Matthew 6:24 Jesus warned that "no one can serve two masters",
- and James 1:8 calls this a double-minded person "unstable in all his ways"

IV. John goes on to tell us in verse 16

1Jn 2:16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

1. What Is "the World"?

- a. Prioritizing what the world values over what God values
 - Cravings that pulls you away from God, not always the obvious SIN we think of,
 - Drugs
 - Alcohol
 - Pornography
 - It's anything you are trying to build your identity on that is not eternal.
 - John isn't vague here He defines it for us:
 - "The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..."
 - These are not random categories; they cover just about **every avenue of temptation.**

2. Lust of the Flesh — "I feel it, so I want it"

- a. This is about physical cravings / appetites.
 - Pleasure **without** boundaries, comfort as the highest goal
 - Living by impulse instead of obedience
 - Addiction to pleasure (food, sex, entertainment)
 - Avoiding discipline because it's uncomfortable
 - It says: "If it feels good, do it." Letting emotions dictate decisions
 - But feelings are not a reliable compass.
- b. The Bible acknowledges that emotions are a natural part of being created in God's image, but it consistently teaches that feelings or our emotions **should not control our actions or decisions.**
 - Emotions can be an honest reflection of our inner state, they can also be fleeting, deceptive, or influenced by sin, that's why Paul tells us in

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, 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.

3. Lust of the Eyes — "I see it, so I want it... no I need it"

- a. This is about **coveting** and **comparison.**
 - Wanting what others have
 - Social media drives envy and Materialism
 - Measuring our worth against others

- Measuring our worth by what we can acquire
- Being driven by appearance rather than substance
- Lust of the Eyes says: “If I can see it, I should have it.”
- Constantly dissatisfied
- The eyes are never satisfied—and our hearts follow where our eyes linger.

4. The Pride of Life — says “Look at me”

a. This is about **status, identity, and self-exaltation**.

- Building your life around being admired
 - Obsession with personal branding
- Needing recognition
 - Needing others to validate you
- Defining yourself by success or image
 - Comparing or scoring your achievements against others
- It says: “I am what I achieve, own, or display.”

b. **1 John 2:16 Verse 16** describes the same 3 aspects of sin that appear consistently throughout Scripture. These are not new categories—they trace all the way back to the very first temptation in **Genesis 3:6**:

- when Eve encountered the serpent, her decision to disobey God followed the same threefold pattern John describes in chapter 2 for us:
- **The rational for sin included the trees fruit was:**
 - “**Good for food**” — reflecting the *lust of the flesh*, a desire to satisfy physical desire apart from God’s will.
 - “**Pleasing to the eye**” —the *lust of the eyes*, the attraction to what looks desirable or appealing.
 - “**Desirable for gaining wisdom**” — this is the *pride of life*, the pursuit of self-exaltation.

c. What’s significant is that **the first temptation wasn’t random**, it flowed from a pattern that continues to define sin today.

- John isn’t introducing something new in he is simply exposing a recurring strategy of satan, the world and of sin itself.

Jesus in the wilderness

- Satan said Turn stones to bread (lust of the flesh)
- Satan said I will give you all the kingdoms of the world (lust of the eyes)
- Throw yourself down surly God will protect you (pride of life)
 - Same 3 categories of temptation.

What we see is the difference in how Eve and Jesus handled temptation:

- Eve was in the garden
- Had a personal relationship with the Father
- Was given a choice and gave in to temptation and sin.

Jesus

- Jesus left heaven to be born human on earth
- Had a personal relationship with the Father
- Was given a choice and resisted temptation and sin.
 - Not because Jesus was God so He was stronger, Eve was in need of nothing, God had provided everything
 - Jesus had just come off a 40 day fast, was hungry, tired and possibly the weakest He could be
 - The difference wasn’t environment, and it wasn’t provision—it was obedience. Eve had everything and still gave in. Jesus had nothing in that moment and stood firm.

d. **That raises an important question for us:** if the difference is obedience, where do we find the strength to live that way?

- Scripture answers that by reminding us where we truly belong:

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in Heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, *the* Lord Jesus Christ,

1. There is more to this verse than meets the eye.
 - Paul was writing to people in Philippi, a Roman colony where citizenship in Rome was a huge source of pride and privilege. By saying this, he's shifting their perspective: telling them your true identity isn't in Rome—it's in heaven.
 - Paul is making a powerful contrast. Just before this verse, Paul describes people whose focus is entirely on earthly things, their desires, status, and temporary life. Then he shifts and says, that's not who we are.
 - To say "our citizenship is in heaven" means:
 - Our true identity and allegiance belong to God's kingdom, not this world.
 - As Christians we live on this earth, but we belong to heaven—and **that** should shape our thoughts, words and actions as well as give us hope.
 - We should not be taking our values, direction, or purpose from the culture around us.
 - Our lives should reflect our citizenship, like ambassadors, we represent our home and it's values.
2. It's interesting this word "citizenship" used in Philippians is used only 1 time in the entire new testament,
 - it is derived from another word meaning to live as a community.
 - Our Citizenship is in heaven,
 - with the community of believers and loved ones
 - where our Father is,
 - where our savior Jesus is waiting for us,
 - where our home is
 - and is where we are storing up our treasures.
 - And when Paul says from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ he points to hope and expectation of His coming. All of us should be saying maranatha, Lord come quickly.
 - Believers aren't just grounded in the present—we are looking forward to a future that includes the return of Jesus, who will transform us and establish His kingdom.

V. Which brings us to **verse 17**

1Jn 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1. The World is Temporary:

- The world and its desires pass away...
- Everything the world offers has an expiration date.
- Much of what consumes our energy today that we give our **time, attention, and affection to:** Won't matter to us in the next 5 or 10 years

2. But there is a Promise in verse 17 — he who does the will of God abides forever

- This is the contrast.
- Two paths:
 - Love the world → it passes away
 - Do the will of God's → abide forever

3. So, what does it mean to "do the will of God"?

- It's not about perfection, it's about obedience.
- It means: Aligning our life with God's priorities
- Live with eternity in mind

4. Your love absolutely shapes:

- Your choices
- Your priorities
- And most importantly your eternity

If someone looked at your **life**, your **words**, your **actions** what would they say you love most?

- The world?
- Or the Father?