

# Dual Connection (1 John) Pt 4 *Don't Tell Me What to Do!*

## Message to Conversation Guide

1. In the verses below, we are instructed not to love the world. The phrase “do not love the world” is in the imperative mood in Greek, which means it is a command. The writer of 1 John, presumably John the Apostle, uses an authoritative phrase to address God’s people. What is the expectation when an order like this is given? What are the implications of someone presuming to provide us with a command?

### *1 John 2:15-17*

<sup>15</sup> **Do not love the world** or anything in the world. *If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.* <sup>16</sup> *For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.* <sup>17</sup> *The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.* NIV

**The imperative mood conveys a COMMAND for someone to perform the action of the verb.** <https://pressbooks.pub/ancientgreek/chapter/41/>

2. The book of 1 John uses the word “commandment” frequently. This word speaks of authority. Discuss the concept of God’s

authority in our lives as believers. Why do we often bristle against the idea of divine authority in our lives?

### *1 John 2:3-8*

*3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep **his commands**. 4 Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what **he commands** is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone **obeys his word**, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

*7 Dear friends, I am not writing you **a new command** but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This **old command** is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a **new command**; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. NIV*

### *1 John 3:21-24*

*21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, **because we keep his commands** and do what pleases him. 23 And this is **his command**: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another **as he commanded** us. 24 The one **who keeps God's commands** lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. NIV (also see **1 John 4:19-21, 1 John 5:1-3**)*

3. Discuss the three instruments of authority in our Christian life.

- *The Spirit's Authority* (*Acts 8:1, Matt. 4:1, Ro. 8:14*)
- *The Bible's Authority* (*Matt. 4:4,7,10, 2 Tim. 3:16. 1 Peter 1:20*)
- *Human Agents' Authority* (*Heb. 13:17, 2 Cor. 10:8, Ro. 13:1*)

4. The focus of authority is essential. Discuss the statements below:

***All authority must be focused on the benefit of the person under authority not on the person holding the authority.***

***If authority flows from the desire to control people, it will be corrupt, but if authority flows from the desire to protect people it is pure.***

5. Where did rebellion against authority begin in the Bible? How does this connect to us when we resist divine authority?

***Gen. 3:1,6***

*1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

*6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. NIV (see ***Ro. 5:12***)*

