



THE LOVE OF THE FATHER - WEEK 3

1 John 2:15-17

INTRODUCTION

Is there a certain sports team you DON'T like because of another team you DO like?
How about a band? Is there a band you DON'T like because of another band you DO like?

What has God been teaching you so far during our LOVE OF THE FATHER series?

READ TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to read **1 John 2:15-17**

DISCUSS TOGETHER

In **1 John 2:15**, John says to not love the world (the 'system' or the 'values') of the world

- How would you describe the system or values of the world?

Why does John say that you CANNOT

LOVE THE WORLD **AND** LOVE GOD?

- Do you agree with that?
- Why or why not?
- Why does it matter?

John says you can know by checking yourself against these three things

The lust of the flesh = Pleasure is Ultimate

The lust of the eyes = I want More

Pride in One's Lifestyle = I don't Need God

- Take a few moments to talk about those three things:
What do they MEAN?
What do they LOOK LIKE?

As you honestly look at those things

- How are you doing?
- What do those things say about what you love?

Duey said that you could summarize this passage this way

**The Love of the Father
Causes me to Live Different**

- Where is an area of your life where you need to live different?
- Why do you live that way?
- What is going to keep you from changing?

Take some time this week to **repeatedly pray this prayer**

God, show me what I actually love

God, give me a heart that longs for you

God, give me the courage to live differently

NEXT

What is the NEXT THING God is telling you to do?

When are you going to do it?

What will KEEP you from doing it?

How can we HELP one another?

CONNECT

Take some time to CONNECT together and PRAY for one another

- Are there any areas of your life that we can celebrate?
- Are there any areas of your life where we can help?
- Are there any areas of your life that we can be praying about?

FURTHER READING

John warned his readers of worldly dangers that face the Christian as he or she seeks to get to know God better. He did this to enable them to prepare for and overcome these obstacles with God's help.

*The Greek negative prohibition *me*, occurring with the present active imperative verb, means either stop doing something, or do not have the habit of doing it. The "world" (*kosmos*) represents the system of values, priorities, and beliefs that unbelievers hold that excludes God (cf. John 14:30; Gal. 6:14; Eph. 2:2; 2 Pet. 2:20). In this context, it does not refer to the world of creation or the world of humanity in general, which God loves (John 3:16).*

It is a moral and spiritual system designed to draw people away from God. It is a seductive system that appeals to all people, believers as well as unbelievers, and calls for our affection, participation, and loyalty (cf. John 3:16-17, 18-19; James 4:4). Satan controls this system, and believers should shun it (cf. 5:19; John 12:31; 14:30).

These three basic desires come "from the world" system, not "from the Father," and the believer should separate from them. The Father desires our welfare, but the world will destroy us (v. 17).

Another reason we should not pursue the lusts of the world is that this system, along with its desires, is in the process of "passing" out of existence. Actually we are living in what John called the "last hour" of the world's existence (v. 18). The world is only temporary and ephemeral (cf. 1 Peter). In spite of this, those who do God's "will" abide (continue and endure, "live") "forever." Since all Christians will "live forever" (John 10:28), John was not saying we attain eternal life by our obedience. However, we also abide (i.e., enjoy an intimate relationship with God and abundantly experience God's eternal life) now, not just after death, when we obey God.