

1 JOHN 2:15-17

There are many things we enjoy in the world and long to experience. We set our hopes and desires on pleasures, accomplishments, and things. It's easy to join with the world to chase after the experience, the money, or the letters by our name because we see it around us every day. While these are not wrong in and of themselves, placing hope and trust in them puts us in a tricky position. Loving the world is easy but harmful for us as followers of Jesus.

To love means to sacrificially commit to something or someone. It is a resolved commitment to love in a way that changes you from the inside out. Jesus showed his agape love for us in a life of service. He lived to heal, pray, forgive, and ultimately die for people he loved that didn't love him back. This is the type of love John is talking about in his letter.

"15Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

The question is straightforward for us: will we love the world in a way that changes us to where we sacrifice our time and effort to that end, or will we love God and commit everything we have to him? The warning in this passage is that loving the world puts our hope in something that is dying and passing away. The promise and opportunity in this passage is that loving God puts our hope in something that abides and draws near forever. So again, the question comes back to us: what or who do we love?

Study Questions (30 min)

- Are you more of a pleasure-seeker, a collector of things, or an achiever?
- Take a moment to read the passage. What did you observe about the world?
- How will you make adjustments in your life to love God more than the world?
- Based off our discussion, what do we want to do with this as a group?

D&A (20 min)

- How is your time with God going?
- What are you praying about currently?
- What is something you are struggling through (sin or hurt)?