

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025 AM
AUTHENTIC FAITH: The Love God Hates 2
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FOCAL PASSAGE: I John 2 15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 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. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

NOTE THE THREE _____ USED TO TRAP CHRISTIANS

I John 2:16

¹⁶ 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.

- The lust (desire) of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- These same devices trapped Eve back in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:6

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food (the lust of the flesh) and pleasing to the eye (the lust of the eye), and also desirable for gaining wisdom (the pride of life), she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

THE LUST OF THE _____

I John 2:16b

^{16b} the lust of the flesh

1. FLESH

- This includes anything that appeals to man's fallen carnal nature.
- It refers to the basic nature of undegenerated or carnal man that makes him blind to spiritual truth.

I Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

2. DESIRES

- God has given man certain desires, and these desires are good: hunger, thirst, weariness, and intimacy.
- There is nothing wrong about eating, drinking, sleeping, or begetting children – but when the flesh nature controls them, they become sinful “lust”.

3. RECALL WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE FLESH

- It is important that believers remember what God says about his old nature, the flesh.
- Everything God says about the flesh is negative.

THE LUST OF THE _____

I John 2:16c

^{16c} *the lust of the eyes*

1. _____ DEVICE

- The second device that the world uses to trap the Christian is called the “lust of the eyes”.
- We sometimes forget the eyes can have an appetite!
- The lust of the eye, however, operates in a more refined way that is, it appeals to the gratifying of the sight and mind.
- In John’s day the Greeks and Romans lived for entertainments and activities that excited the eyes.

2. _____ EXAMPLE

- In **Joshua 7** we are confronted with a soldier by the name of Achan that served in Joshua’s army.
- Recall he brought defeat to the army of Israel because of the lust of the eye.

Joshua 7:21

²¹ *When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”*

3. _____

- The eyes (like other senses) are a gateway into the mind or the heart of a person.
- The lust of the eyes, therefore, can include intellectual pursuits that are contrary to God's Word.
- There is pressure to make Christians think the way the world thinks.

_____ OF LIFE

I John 2:16d

^{16d} *and the pride of life*

1. _____ DEVICE

- The third device is the boastful "pride of life".
- God's glory is rich and full; man's glory is vain and empty.
- People have always tried to outdo others in their spending and their getting.

2. _____

- Why is it, so many people buy homes, cars, appliances or wardrobes that they really cannot afford?
- Why do they give in to the "travel now, pay later or buy now, pay later" advertising and get themselves into hopeless debt experiencing these things that are really beyond their means?

3. _____

- It is true the world's appeals to Christians through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.
- Once the world takes over in one of these areas, a Christian will soon notice it.
- He will lose his "devotional" love, enjoyment and his desire to the will of God.

4. _____

- It is important to note that no Christian becomes worldly all of a sudden.
- Worldliness creeps up on a believer; it is a gradual process.
- Notice the method Satan uses against us.

TWO BIBLICAL _____ OF DEALING WITH THE TEMPTATION OF WORLDLINESS

1. _____

- The downward steps and their consequences are illustrated in the life of Lot.

Genesis 13:5-13

⁵ Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. ⁷ And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. ⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left." ¹⁰ Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. ¹³ Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

Genesis 14:8-14

⁸ Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim ⁹ against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. ¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills. ¹¹ The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. ¹² They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom. ¹³ A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram. ¹⁴ When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

- FIRST Lot looked toward Sodom.
- THEN he pitch his tent toward Sodom in the well-watered plains of the Jordan.
- NEXT he moved into Sodom.
- FINALLY, when Sodom was captured by the enemy, Lot was captured also,
- EVENTUALLY, Lot lost everything—for everything he lived for went up in smoke.

I Corinthians 3:12-15

¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

2. _____

- Notice how Jesus was tempted in the wilderness as He set out to begin His earthly ministry.
- Had just been baptized (anointed for His ministry) and is immediately challenged with Worldliness.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” (The Lust of the Flesh) ⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” (The Lust of the eyes) ⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” (The Pride of Life) ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- Notice how Jesus succeeded in defeating Satan where Lot failed.

LIVE IT OUT

Are you a child of this world or a child of God this morning?

How and where have you allowed worldliness to creep into your life?

Which of the three devices is Satan able to use effectively in your life?

How can you begin to use God's word to defeat Satan?