

I. Intro

A. Text: **1 Jn. 2:15-17**

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. 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. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

B. Writing Style

1. John is speaking in Hyperbole
2. John is also speaking in absolutes.
3. Poetically: Repeated, almost circular technique.

C. God is Light

1. God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.
 - a. God is perfect; and there is no blemish in Him at all.
 - b. No ambiguity in his nature.
 - i. No ambiguity on where we stand with Him.
2. We walk in the light or we walk in darkness. (**v.6**)
 - a. No intermediate position in Him.
 - b. If we say that we have fellowship with the light, yet walk in darkness... we lie.
 - c. You must be born again.
 - i. God is light.

⁸ For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. (Eph. 5:8)

- d. If you place your trust, faith, surrender in Jesus... you are born again.

D. God is Love

1. God is love and there is no hate in Him.
 - a. He is the originator of love.
 - b. He is the source of love.

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2. Love is God's very nature.
 - a. It's who He is.
 - b. It's what He feels (in His emotions).
 - c. It's what He does.

3. Love is Tangible and Observable

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 Jn. 4:7-11)

4. Love is Costly and Sacrificial

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 Jn. 3:16)

- a. God's love is selfless and sacrificial in nature.
 - b. God's love calls His followers to Lay down their lives.

5. Love is Necessary and Non-Negotiable

- a. Deeds: If Christ laid down His life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

6. Love Produces Confidence toward God

¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (1 Jn. 4:17)

- a. We have boldness to stand before God... on that day (1 Jn. 4:17b).
 - b. Love casts out fear. (1 Jn. 4:18a)

¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (1 Jn. 4:18)

II. Body

A. Love Won't Share Space

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. (1 Jn. 2:15)

1. World: the present evil order of things as they are now as opposed to the order of the Kingdom to come.

2. All that is in the world is NOT of the Father

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 Jn. 2:16)

a. The World is reduced to selfish desire and pride.

i. Lust of the Flesh: Desire for what pleases self, but is not lawful.

i. Physical Pleasure

ii. Lust of the Eyes: Desire for what is desirable, but not our own.

i. Mental, Intellectual Pleasure

iii. Pride of Life: Pride in what you have acquired.

3. All that is in this world (in this order) is a helpless spiral of bondage.

a. Passion for self-pleasure.

b. Pride of possessions (or obtaining pleasure).

4. Jesus gave His life to deliver us from this world.

³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. (Gal. 1:3-4)

a. We love the coming Kingdom and its King or we love the present evil order of things and its king.

i. No room for the both.

B. Love For the World Won't Last Long

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

1. The present order of things will ultimately crash.

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- a. The present structure of lust and pride will bow.
 - b. Why would you continue to put all your stock in something that is sure to fail?
 2. There is a world (order) on the way, that will never crash.
 - a. There is a coming King who will never relinquish His throne.
 - b. Either love this decaying world and the futile, fading variables that come with it... or you love the eternal King and the timeless and eternal things (which will never change).

C. Love For the Father Has a Specific Look

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. 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. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

1. Love the world vs. Love God (v. 15)
 - a. Love the world that is passing (v. 17a)
 - b. Love God who is eternal. (linear progression)
2. Loving God and doing His will are synonymous.
 - a. Jn. 14:15: ¹⁵ *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*
 - b. Jn. 15:14: ¹⁴ *You are my friends if you do what I command you.*
 - c. 1 Jn. 5:3: ³ *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.*
3. We receive salvation by faith alone... in the Son Jesus Christ.
 - a. Only believe.
 - b. The type of faith that pleases God, produces the fruit of obedience that is saturated in love.

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- c. Because we love Him, we get to do His will. His commandments are no longer burdensome.
 - d. We become passionate about His imminent return for us.

III. Conclusion

A. Love is Associated With Desire, Longing

- 1. Love is indicated by the thing that is pursued.
- 2. What are we longing for?

B. Honestly, What are We Desiring?

- 1. What are our eyes fixed on?

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:1-4)

- 2. What are we reaching/longing for?

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil. 3:17-20)

- 3. Who are we committed to?

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

C. May our allegiance, desire, focus be on He who is Good, Worthy and Eternal

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. (Ps. 73:25)