



## Which Way?

### Letters from John // Week 2

Pastor Jesse McCoy

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#### Overview

Pastor Jesse continued our *Letters from John* series by giving a powerful picture of what it looks like to let God lead our lives instead of being driven by the desires of the world. In these verses, John identifies three common areas of struggle: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. This message challenges us to honestly examine what may be competing for our hearts and to rely on God's strength to live lives that reflect Jesus.

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#### Opening Conversation

What's something you thought would make you happier, cooler, or more fulfilled...but totally didn't?

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#### Scripture & Discussion

##### Read 1 John 2:15 (NIV), John 3:16 (NIV)

- Discuss the difference between loving the things of the world versus loving the people of the world.
- What kind of love should we have for the Father? How can our love for comfort, success, approval, or possessions compete with the way we should love God?
- As believers, how can we live in the world without allowing culture or temptation to slowly shape our thinking and justify sinful behavior?
- **Supporting Scripture:** Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:2, James 4:4

##### Read 1 John 2:16 (NIV)

- **Lust of the Flesh:** In Scripture, "flesh" is often connected to our human nature and desires. The desires themselves are not always sinful, but when they begin to control us or take priority over God, they can lead us into sin.
  - How can good desires like rest, comfort, success, food, relationships, or even justice become unhealthy or turn into idols in our lives?
  - What are practical ways we can surrender our desires to God instead of letting them control us?
- **Lust of the Eyes:** If lust of the flesh begins internally, lust of the eyes often begins with what we continually focus on or pursue externally.
  - How do comparison, jealousy, greed, or discontentment grow when we constantly focus on what others have?
  - What are ways we can redirect our hearts and minds back to truth when temptation begins through what we see?

- **Pride of Life:** Pride is not always obvious. It can quietly show up through self-reliance, comparison, control, or needing to appear spiritually strong.
  - What are some other subtle ways pride can sneak into our lives?
  - How do humility and dependence on God protect us from pride? What practical actions help keep God at the center instead of ourselves?

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### Application

We often know what Scripture says but putting it into practice can be difficult. As believers, our desire should be to live lives that point others to Christ. That happens through a growing relationship with God, closeness with Jesus, and sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Temptation will always be part of life, but we are not meant to fight it alone. God gives us strength, wisdom, and a way forward when we lean on Him.

This week, spend time reflecting on the areas where you feel tempted or distracted by the things John describes in 1 John 2:16. What is one practical step you can take to rely on God's strength instead of your own? Spend time praying through these verses throughout your week:

- Isaiah 40:29
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Philippians 4:13
- Hebrews 4:15–16

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### Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us Your Word to guide and strengthen us. Help us recognize the things that compete for our hearts and pull us away from You. Give us wisdom to resist temptation, humility to depend on You, and a greater desire to live lives that honor You. Teach us to rely on Your strength instead of our own and help us become more like Jesus each day.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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### Upcoming Events:

- May 31 – Grad Sunday / Move Up
- June 3 – First Wednesday Prayer, 7:30am
- June 7 – Welcome to the X, 10:45am
- June 9 – Kids Night Live
- June 16 – XCO Night

### Resources:

- To request prayer: <https://thexchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/13150>
- To meet with a Pastor: <https://thexchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/534644>
- Financial Assistance, Sobriety Resources, grief support, and more: <https://thex.church/care/>

**X Church Podcast:** [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8rUS49luWYwojA6eKIA\\_VuAO592ZYQgd](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8rUS49luWYwojA6eKIA_VuAO592ZYQgd)