

Do Not Love The World

1 John 2:15-17

(All scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted)

Do Not Love The World

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16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

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We are commanded not to love the world, so how do we reconcile that with this verse?:

*“For God so **loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

(John 3:16 NKJV)

If God “so loved the world,” shouldn’t we also love the world?

Do Not Love The World

Yes, God loves the people, and so should we! The objects of our love should be **first God** and then the souls of **people**, created in His image.

“And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

(Matthew 22:37-40)

Do Not Love The World

What in “The World” are we NOT to love?

Satan.

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

(2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

Things.

“... while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

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What in "The World" are we NOT to love?
Wealth.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

(Matthew 6:24)

Money.

"For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." **(1 Timothy 6:10)**

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We must stop loving the world and the things in the world before we can love God.

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." **(Romans 12:1-2)**

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Demas loved the world.

*"Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also **Demas**."* **(Colossians 4:14)**

*"Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, **Demas**, Luke, my fellow workers."* **(Philemon 23-24)**

*"Make every effort to come to me soon; for **Demas**, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia."* **(2 Timothy 4:9-10)**

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The rich young ruler loved the world.

"As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, 'Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, "Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother."' And he said to Him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.' Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, 'One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.' But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property." **(Mark 10:17-22)**

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Loving God has been commanded by God's prophets beginning with Moses:

*"Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who **love Him** and keep His commandments ..."* **(Deuteronomy 7:9)**

*"You shall therefore **love the Lord your God**, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments."* **(Deuteronomy 11:1)**

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Loving God is demanded by His prophets:

*"Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to **love the Lord your God** and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."* **(Joshua 22:5)**

*"I said, 'I beseech You, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who **love Him** and keep His commandments ...'"* **(Nehemiah 1:5)**

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Loving God is demanded by His prophets:

*“I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed and said, ‘Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who **love Him** and keep His commandments ...’” (Daniel 9:4)*

*“O **love the Lord**, all you His godly ones! The Lord preserves the faithful and fully recompenses the proud doer. Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who hope in the Lord.” (Psalm 31:23-24)*

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Loving God is commanded by Jesus Christ:

“And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Loving God is defined by Jesus Christ:

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)

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*“For all that is in the world,
the **lust** of the flesh
and the **lust** of the eyes
and the boastful pride of life,
is not from the Father, but is from the world.”
(1 John 2:16)*

Let us examine the word “lust.”

What is “Lust”?

The word “lust” comes from the Greek word *epithumia*, meaning “strong desire” of any kind.

Epithumia is sometimes translated “desire,” and used in a good sense in only three New Testament passages:

*“And He said to them, ‘I have earnestly **desired** to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.’” (Luke 22:15)*

*“But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the **desire** to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better ...” (Philippians 1:23)*

*“But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while – in person, not in spirit – were all the more eager with great **desire** to see your face.”
(1 Thessalonians 2:17)*

Everywhere else in the New Testament, the word denotes a strong desire in a bad sense ... lusts that we must control.

We Must Control Our Desires

Lust (Greek = *epithumia*) is used in a bad sense in almost every passage where it is found in the New Testament.

*“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its **lusts**, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” (Romans 6:12-14)*

*“Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its **lusts**.”
(Romans 13:11-14)*

We Must Control Our Desires

*“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the **lusts** of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.” (Ephesians 2:1-3)*

*“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former **lusts** which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:14-16)*

*“Now flee from youthful **lusts** and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)*

We Must Control Our Desires

*“For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various **lusts** and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”*

(Titus 3:3)

*“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly **lusts** which wage war against the soul.” **(1 Peter 2:11)***

*“Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the **lusts** of men, but for the will of God. For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, **lusts**, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.” **(1 Peter 4:1-5)***

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*“For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh** and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.” **(1 John 2:16)***

Lust of the flesh is defined by its deeds:

*“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” **(Galatians 5:19-21)***

Illustrations: Joseph **(Genesis 39:1-18)**
Solomon **(1 Kings 11:1-13)**

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Lust of the eyes (associated with greed/covetousness):

*“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and **greed**, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.”*

(Colossians 3:5-7)

*“For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or **covetous** man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”*

(Ephesians 5:5)

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Lust of the eyes:

Illustrations: Achan **(Joshua 6:15-21; 7:1-26)**
Aaron **(Exodus 32:1-6)**

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Boastful pride of life:

*“And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ‘Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’” But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, the sinner!” I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” **(Luke 18:9-14)***

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Boastful pride of life:

*“And He told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.’” But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” **(Luke 12:16-21)***

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Boastful pride of life:

Illustrations: Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:12-18)
Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:1-36)

*“Everyone who is **proud in heart** is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.” (Proverbs 16:5)*

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Note that Satan used all three “avenues of temptation” in the Garden of Eden when appealing to Eve: **lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, boastful pride of life.**

*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, “You shall not eat from any tree of the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.”’ The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ When the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **desirable to make one wise**, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.” (Genesis 3:1-6)*

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Note that Satan used all three “avenues of temptation” in the wilderness when appealing to Jesus: **lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, boastful pride of life.**

*“And the devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, **tell this stone to become bread.**’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live on bread alone.” And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘**I will give You all this domain and its glory**; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.” And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, “He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,” and, “**On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.**’” And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘It is said, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.” (Luke 4:3-13)*

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*“The **world is passing away**, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:17)*

The world is only temporary. (2 Peter 3:3-18)

God will judge the unrighteous. (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)

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*“The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but **the one who does the will of God lives forever.**” (1 John 2:17)*

God will reward the righteous.

“... who will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life ...” (Romans 2:6-7)

Eternal life is the reward!

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.’” (John 11:25-27)

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*“The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but **the one who does the will of God lives forever.**” (1 John 2:17)*

Everlasting life is the reward!

“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” (John 6:48-51)

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(1 John 2:17)

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.’ The Jews said to Him, ‘Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, “If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.” Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, “He is our God”; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.’ So the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.’” **(John 8:51-58)***

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*“The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but **the one who does the will of God lives forever.**”*

(1 John 2:17)

Eternal life is the reward!

“For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:20-23)

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(1 John 2:17)

Eternal life is the reward!

*“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.” **(Galatians 6:7-8)***

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

(2 Timothy 4:7-8)

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(1 John 2:17)

Eternal life is the promise!

*“This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.” **(1 John 2:25)***

Eternal life is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God!

*“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” **(1 John 5:11-13)***

HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL

Hear the word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized (Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Remain Obedient (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)