

# **LOVE NOT THE WORLD**

## **I John 2:15-17**

**If we wish to be godly Christians there are some things that we must not love.**

### **I. THE COMMAND: A Forbidden Love** (15a)

#### **A. THE FORBIDDEN AFFECTION**

1. Do not love > A present, active, imperative verb
2. Be willing to be known for what you do not love

#### **B. THE FORBIDDEN OBJECT**

1. The World's System
  - This is that which is organized in rebellion against God and hostile to Him
2. The World's Things
  - Do not love the world's ethics, entertainment or pop culture

### **II. THE DETAILS: What not to love specifically** (16a)

#### **A. DO NOT LOVE PLEASURE: The lust of the flesh**

1. The works of the flesh - See Galatians 5:19-21
  - A selfish seeking after self-gratification
2. We are called to be pure - II Cor. 6:14-17

#### **B. DO NOT LOVE MATERIALISM: The lust of the eyes**

1. Covetousness or greed aroused by what one sees
  - Examples: Lucifer (Isaiah 14) or Achan (Josh 7:21)
2. We are called to be content - Heb. 13:5-6

#### **C. DO NOT LOVE STATUS: The boastful pride of life**

1. Ostentation or flashiness and the desire to be noticed
  - Example: The foolish farmer in Luke 12:16-20
2. We are called to be humble - James 4:6

### III. **THE REASONS: Why not love the world?** (15b, 16b, 17)

#### A. INCOMPATIBILITY WITH GODLINESS (15b)

1. Conclusion: Love for God and love for the world cannot coexist
2. Reality: No man can serve two masters - Matt. 6:24
3. Actually: Friendship with the world is hatred toward God - James 4:4

#### B. SOURCE ISSUES (16b)

1. Obviously: Things of the world are from the world
2. Conversely: Things of the world are not sourced in God
3. Realistically: The things of the world lead to sin
  - Consider Eve in Genesis 3:6 or Lot's wife in Genesis 19:15-26

#### C. TEMPORAL SIGNIFICANCE (17)

1. The world is ethereal
  - a. It is passing, fleeting and fading away
  - b. See Ecc 2:4-11 and James 4:13-5:3
2. The obedient are eternal
  - a. Moses wisely withdrew from the pleasures of seasonal sin - Heb. 11:25
  - b. What value is it to gain the whole world but lose your soul? - Mark 8:36

### **CONCLUSION:**

#### **We tend to hug the things we love.**

- So, what are you hugging?
- To what are you clinging?
- See Galatians 5:24

#### **Godliness is the embracing of God and His ways.**

- Will you be holy?
- Will you have and hold to biblical convictions and standards?
- Are you willing to "unlove" the world?