



# Do Not Love the World

A SUMMER SERIES ON THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

1 John 2:15-17 James 4:4 Romans 12:1-2

Colossians 3:1-10 John 17:13-23

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When John writes, “**Do not love the world nor the things of the world**”, he is not talking about the **beauty of Creation**: the trees and mountains, oceans and lakes, sunrises and sunsets; nor is he talking about **the people of the earth**. In fact, God loves the people the earth and sends us to them with the Gospel good news of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament, when we are warned about the “**world**”, it means **the ways and ideas of the world that are hostile to God and rebel against His Word and Commands**. The “**world**” in this sense would include the **culture**, the **attitudes**, and the **mindset** of those who reject Christ. It includes the so-called **wisdom** of the world, it's **philosophes** and **theories**. It includes much **secular education**, the **media**, and **politics**. The **world** is the **wicked and corrupt environment** we live in that is always tempting us to join in; it lures and entices you *to think like it thinks, to act like it acts, to love what it loves*. The **world** rejects Christ, hates His word, neglects His commandments, and persecutes His people. It's pretty easy to see why St. John writes to us and says “**Do not love the world nor anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.**”

The **world** and its ways are everywhere. The homosexual agenda; the transgender confusion; **wokeism**<sup>1</sup> are currently leading the way. For many people, it is literally **adapt, agree, support, and participate** in these things or you will lose your job and your livelihood. You will be ridiculed, mocked, and excluded. You will be “cancelled.” A day is coming when just saying

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<sup>1</sup> Wokeism is this sermon is being used as representative of the “ways of the world.” It can be summarized with the appropriate acronym D.I.E. --> Diversity, Inclusivity, and Equity. It is the current worldly agenda that requires obedience to it; and it excludes, and is hostile to, Christ and His Word.

these things will be illegal, and I, and maybe you, will be heavily fined and thrown in jail because of it.

The world is a dark place; and make no mistake about it, it is satanic. It is all orchestrated by the evil one. All the evil, rebellion and immorality that we are seeing is not happening by chance; they are all interconnected. It is all orchestrated by the Satan, and the common thread is the rejection of Christ, a hatred of His Word, and persecution of His People.

St. John writes to warn us **not to align ourselves** with the world; not to chase after it, nor think like it thinks nor do what it does.

### **But maybe you have.**

Maybe you know more about the ways of the world than the ways of God; maybe you listen to, put more time into, and put more value in the voices of the world rather than Christ and His Word. Maybe the immorality of the world is enticing you to join or support it. If you are caught up in the world and its ways: **then stop!** Realize what you're doing, and turn away from it! The warning is strong and crystal clear:

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15b

You can't have it both ways; the world is hostile to Christ and *directly opposed* to His Holy Word. You cannot be a Christian if you love the world<sup>2</sup>. John is using strong words to make this warning! **Take this warning to heart!** *If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* If the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life is influencing your thinking and directing your life, **then repent!** You are in terrible, eternal danger!

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<sup>2</sup> St. Paul teaches that even if you are not personally involved in a rebellious or immoral act, but support or encourage it, then you have joined with them. In Romans 1, after describing the depravity of the world with a lengthy list of rebellious and immoral actions, he concludes with these words: "Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. (Romans 1:32)." If you have not read Romans 1:18-32 in a while, I would encourage you to do so. It is the same idea that St. John says in this one verse: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. (1 John 2:15)."

Remember, that *if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and He will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*; God in Christ **cleanses** you of your worldliness! God sent Jesus to **rescue** you from the darkness; His death on the cross was your death to the world. His death **set you free** from the world and its ways and its thinking. In Christ, all your sins are **forgiven**! You have *present tense forgiveness*: always, everyday, without ceasing God forgives your sins! You also have *perfect tense forgiveness*: your sins have been forgiven, and they remain forgiven! In Christ, you are given a clean heart, a clear conscience, and a renewed mind. **You belong to Christ**; not the world.

Salvation in Christ implies *movement*: you have been rescued from the **world**, and *moved into* the Kingdom of God; the Lord has delivered you *out of* the darkness, and *into* the Light! Don't get drawn back into the darkness!

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

In Christ, you have been *moved into* the Kingdom of God; the Lord has delivered you *out of* the darkness, and *into* the Light! Rather than loving the world, the pride of life, and chasing the lusts of the flesh, you learn to love the Lord your God and serve Him alone!

Loving the Lord is a diligent seeking and striving after Christ and His Kingdom. Here is how it's taught in Colossians:

**Set your minds** on things above, not on worldly things. Colossians 3:2

Loving Christ and His Kingdom includes setting your "mind" on things above. It's understanding Christ and His Word. It's living your life according to Scripture and trusting the teachings of Christ. It's growing in faith and

striving to live a holy life. These are the values that the Holy Spirit works within you through faith in Christ. This is who you are as a Christian! This is discipleship! This is **hating the world** and *loving the Father*!

In fact, when you love the **FATHER**, trust the **SON**, , and are filled with the **HOLY SPIRIT**, the world looks *increasingly* more *evil, dark, and satanic*. You see more and more rebellion and immorality --- and you want nothing to do with it.

Salvation is Christ implies movement; *movement into* God's Kingdom; and *movement away* from the world and its ways, its pride, and its lusts.

Make sure that you are moving away from the world; you have been rescued from the darkness and its depravity; don't get drawn back into it. Peter writes some graphic words as a warning for us:

If indeed they have escaped the corruption of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, *if only to be entangled and overcome by it again*, their final condition is worse than it was at first. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than to have known it and then to turn away from the holy commandment passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud." 2 Peter 2:20-22

There are strong warnings like this throughout Scripture – including in 1 John. *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.*

Don't get tangled up with the world, its ways or its thinking: it won't be here much longer. You have been rescued from the world by Christ; you belong to Him. If you love the world, the love of the Father is not in you. *The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*

Amen!

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**Lord Jesus, we are in the world but we are not of the world. We thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit so that we can live by faith and not by sight, so that we may love you and your father in heaven rather than the things of this world. Please defend and protect us from all temptations to worldly ideas and ways. Help us to remain faithful to you as we journey through life living in this sinful and corrupt world. we pray this depending on your power alone, amen!**

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

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.

### **James 4:4**

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

### **Romans 12:1-2**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

## Colossians 3:1-10

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

## John 17:13-23

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.