

1 John 2:12-17

Some may say, "Should I not desire dinner? Should I not desire a job? Should I not desire a spouse? Should I not desire the child in my womb? Should I not desire a healthy body or a good night's rest or the morning sun or a great book or an evening with friends?"

And the answer is no—unless it is a desire for GOD! Do you desire dinner because you desire God? Do you want a job because in it you will discover God and love God? Do you long for a spouse because you are hungry for God and hope to see him and love him in your partner? Do you desire the child and the healthy body and the good night's rest and the morning sun and the great book and the evening with friends for God's sake? Do you have an eye for God in everything you desire? St. Augustine captured the heart of our text when he prayed to the Father and said, *He loves thee too little who loves anything together with thee which he loves not for thy sake.*"

-John Piper sermon, "Do Not Love the World". Also see Colossians 3:17; 1 and Corinthians 10:31

In this passage of 1 John, we are taught how to overcome the evil one and avoid the things of the world. As you read through this section, be on the look out for the direct commands from God and the wisdom He offers regarding the world we are in.

1 John 2:12-17

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the

flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.

Opening Questions

1. Recently, how have you applied the teaching from 1 John in your life?
2. Have you worked hard to achieve something, and once it was achieved it was not fulfilling? (education, career, “stuff”, etc.) How did that affect you?
3. Can you remember a time when you loved something in the world so much that it hindered your ability to love God?

Observations from the text

4. In verses 12 – 14, John writes to little children, fathers, etc. Write who he addresses and why he is addressing them.

Audience

Why

5. Verse 15 directs us with “what not to love”. What are we directed not to love – and if we do what is the outcome?

Applying the text

6. What’s the basic truth that even a new believer can understand from verse 12?
7. Chose one of the assurances listed in verse 12-14 that is personally meaningful to you. Why is it meaningful?
8. What are practical ways to let the word of God abide in you to overcome the evil one (v 14)? What keeps hinders that?
9. How do we operate with love towards one another; yet verse 15 commands us to not love the world or the things of the world?
10. Who in your life demonstrates a good balance of love for the people of the world, but not a love for the things of the world?

