

DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD/ LOVE THE WORLD

Do Not Love the World

Do not bear the world's _____

Desires of the flesh.

Desires of the eyes.

The pride of life.

Do not _____ with the world

Do not hold the world's _____

Do not fail to _____ the world

Love the World

Love _____

Love your _____

Love those in _____

Love those without _____

Love your _____

1 John 2:15-17

- 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Galatians 5:16–21

- 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,
21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Proverbs 23:26-28

- 26 My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.
27 For a prostitute is a deep pit; an adulteress is a narrow well.
28 She lies in wait like a robber and increases the traitors among mankind.

Proverbs 4:25-27

- 25 Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.
26 Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure.
27 Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

James 4:16

As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4:4

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

- 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,
18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Love the World and Do Not Love the World

October 17, 2021

Open: How have you experienced tension between your need to love the people of this world and yet not love the values and patterns of this world?

Read & Discuss: 1 John 2:15-17

1. In verse 15 John tells us to not love “the world” or “the things in the world.” Why do you think John included both of these descriptors? Verse 15 finishes with a sobering truth. What happens when we attempt to love both God and this world culture we live in?
2. John gives us a list in verse 16 of desires we should reject. Take a minute to brainstorm some modern examples of these worldly traits. How would such behavior demonstrate a love for the world? How should we, as believers, respond to the presence of these desires in us?

Apply: You have probably heard the phrase, “As Christians, we are to be in the world but not of the world.” What have you found helpful in protecting yourself from becoming tainted by the world’s ways and values?

Read & Discuss: Galatians 5:13-25

3. Galatians 5:14 summarizes the whole law as being fulfilled through loving “your neighbor as yourself.” What are ways you see this as being true?
4. What does Paul mean when he says we “were called to freedom” (v. 13)? How does this freedom enable us to love and serve others?
5. Why do you think Paul would pair the importance of loving others (vv. 14) with a discussion on the works of the flesh (vv. 16-21) and the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22-24)? How is truly loving others a supernatural endeavor?
6. In what ways do you see parallels between Galatians 5:17 and 1 John 2:15? What are some other verses you know of that speak to the issue of loving or not loving the world?

Apply: Even though the world may disagree with many Christian beliefs, what are ways we could demonstrate supernatural love for others without compromising our biblical convictions? There may be times when our pursuit of holy living may leave others feeling judged or unloved, even if that is not our intention. What can we do when we experience this tension?

Pray: Pray for people in this world to have their eyes opened to the hope of the Gospel. Ask God to keep his Church pure through the powerful presence of His Spirit working in and through us.

1 John 2:15–17

[15] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

Galatians 5:13–25

[13] For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. [14] For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” [15] But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

[16] But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17] For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. [19] Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

[25] If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (ESV)