

## 1 John 2:15

**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. 1 John 2:15**

### Do not love the world

This love of the world or things of the world John is talking about is the word agapao- To love in a social or moral sense. A strong positive emotion of regard and affection.

“The world” refers to “mankind’s world” in his fallen state from God.

*During the time John wrote this epistle there they were false teachers arising from within the church saturating the church with philosophical trends that began infecting the church with false doctrine and perverting fundamental apostolic teaching. These false teachers promoted new ideas contrary to the gospel, which eventually became known as Gnosticism from the Greek word “knowledge”. The gnostic idea was that matter was evil and only spirit was good led to the idea that either the body should be treated harshly or sin committed in the body had no connection or effect on one’s spirit. This led some of John’s opponents to conclude that sin committed in the physical body did not matter, absolute indulgence in immorality was permissible, and one could deny that sin ever existed and disregard God’s law. John emphasized the need for obedience to God’s laws and characterized the true love of God as obedience to His commandments. John MacArthur Study Bible*

*Ladies, does sin exist? Does it influence one’s spirit? How? Does sin matter in one’s life? Why?*

Sin hinders our walk with God. Sin steals the time, attention, and affection that we need to sustain our fellowship with God. Sin destroys the comfort and peace that the Holy Spirit seeks to provide for our souls.

What these false teachers failed to see was that sin does affect the soul deeply! Their souls had become darkened. They did not see the truth, nor were they interested in seeing the truth and brought this false teaching into the Church.

**2 Peter 2:2-3 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.**

Something to ponder: *Do I seek God’s truth according to His Word?*

God's Word says in 1 John 1:8&10: **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

When we are in fellowship with God, walking in obedience, and seeking Him with our whole heart, we are blessed!

**Psalm 119:1-3 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.**

*Something to ponder: Do I allow my sin to steal precious time with my God?*

John states, "do not love the world" but as believers, are we required to love the people of the world?

*"God loved [with the love of compassion] the world," and we should feel the same kind of love for the fallen world; but we are not to love the world with congeniality (likeability) and sympathy in its alienation from God. Jamieson, Faucett, Brown Commentary*

**1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

These false teacher's love was devoted to the world's philosophy and wisdom. By showing their love for the world it revealed their heart's desires. Their love was not devoted to loving God and others.

**2 Peter 2:18-19 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.**

**1 John 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.**

*What is one way we can discern truth from error?*

The more we get to know the Bible and hear or read something that just does not sound right, we will be able to recognize it as false teaching. We will always find God's truth in His Word. His Word is living and powerful. We grow in wisdom and knowledge by His instruction and teaching. This is where we draw our strength when we are weak. We are reminded of how Awesome in wonder and Mighty our God is. Our God is big! In His Word we are encouraged by His faithful covenant promises.

He has us in the palm of His hand and He will never let us go! Our Good Father loves us so much! Please don't ever forget these truths!

**John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

**Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

The Lord has supplied every provision for our lives by giving us His Word, His example, and His Holy Spirit, who indwells every believer. He continually gives us His truth and helps us live our lives through His divine power. We really cannot live without Him in our lives. Would you agree?

A prayer for us: Lord, will you help us to discipline ourselves to pick up our Bibles, read it, meditate upon it, study it, trust in it and apply it to our lives? Amen!

*Something to ponder: Is my Bible the most treasured possession I have?*

How privileged we are at Valley Bible to have a Church that prioritizes study, preaching, and teaching of God's Word; loving God and others that He might be glorified in all things.

**Psalm 19:7-8 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.**

*Something to ponder: Do I pray for those who are preaching/teaching God's Word?*

Or the things of the world

*What are some examples of "things of the world" mankind can love more than God?*

There are many things we can love in the world other than God. But we are not to let the world pull us away from the Lord. God, not the world or the things of the world should have 1<sup>st</sup> place in our lives.

*Can we as believers get caught in the trap of loving the world or things of the world?*

When sin is crouching at the door of our heart, we can ask ourselves, where does God rank in my priorities? If He is first place and the One we love most, there is our choice. When we choose God's way in obedience to His Word, we receive (all) the blessings He has in store for us.

*Something to ponder: What is my choice to God's Word? God's way or my way?*

*Pause and examine your heart. Turning from sin brings blessing. When we repent and ask for forgiveness, we are blessed. God is full of pardoning, He delights in forgiving, cleansing, and giving us a fresh start. Dr. John S. Barnett*

**Psalm 119:9-11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**

If anyone loves the world

This love of the world is a worldly (secular, temporal) love that does not come from God. This “*love of the world*” comes from the god of this world (Satan) who is contrary to God, God’s Word and His people. He has, blinded the minds of unbelievers from seeing the light of the gospel, there is no truth in him, he is a liar and the father of lies and he has no love in him! This world lies in the power of the “evil one”.

**2 Corinthians 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

**John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

**1 John 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.**

**1 John 5:19b The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**

John makes it clear when he forbids loving the world, God and the sinful world are opposed to one another that they both cannot be loved at the same time. We are either marked by love and obedience to God or in rebellion against God and in love by the satanically controlled world system.

**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. You cannot serve God and money.**

**Galatians 1:10 Am I now seeking the approval of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.**

*Something to ponder: Is my life marked by love and obedience towards my God?*

*Were we also once a part of that world system?*

**Galatians 4:3** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

**Ephesians 2:1–3** And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Thanks be to God the Father for giving us His Son so we can have new life and no longer be enslaved to this world. Jesus was willing to give His life to set us free from sin's bondage and death!

**Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**Ephesians 4:22-24** That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**1 Corinthians 2:12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

*From the above verses, what is our part in victory over sin?*

*Has anyone been unfriended because of their belief in Christ? Why do you suppose that happened?*

Christians do not belong to the world, we have been chosen out of the world, and because we are not of the world we will be hated.

**John 15:19** If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

**John 17:14-16** I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

**James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

Jesus said, if we love anything more than Him, we are not worthy of Him.

**Matthew 10:37-38 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.**

He is to be our Supreme Treasure, for in His presence there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.

**Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

*Something to ponder: Is there anything in my life that is competing with God for my highest affections?*

The love of the Father

The love that John is referring to is agape love, i.e., affection or benevolence (compassion, kindness, generosity), as in the attitude of God towards His Son...

**John 17:25-26 “O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”**

And as in the attitude towards mankind...

**John 3:16 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.**

**Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Father God, you loved the world so much that You gave Your only Son, Jesus, that no one should perish but have life eternal. Jesus, thank You for the love You have shown us that You were willing to die for us sinners! What a gift that has been given to those who believe!

Is not in him

John reminds us that God is love but hates a certain time of type of love...the love of the world, and, if we love the world predominantly then the love of God is not in us.

*Lord, how desperate and dangerous a sin then is worldly love! If the love of the Father be not in him, the hatred of the father is towards him.* William Burkitt *New Testament Commentary*

*How can we love God above this world?*

When our desires seek to please God, we are no longer concerned with the world or the things of the world. Instead of living for our own selfish will, we live for Christ and His will.

*“The will of God is not something you add to your life. It’s a course you choose. You either line yourself up with the Son of God or you capitulate (submit) to the principle which governs the rest of the world.”* Elizabeth Elliot

Our love for Jesus must be greater than our love for anyone or anything in this world. He is to be the primary object of our love and we are to love Him supremely. When we fill our hearts with love for Him there will be no room for any idols to take His place. To love God above this world we must continually renew our minds with the Word of God and set our minds primarily on things above instead of what is earthly. Our desires must turn towards our heavenly home and our treasures in heaven.

**Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**Colossians 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.**

**Colossians 3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

**Philippians 3:20 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ”.**

*Ladies, who here is eagerly awaiting their Savior? Why?*

The world and its riches are only temporary and offers us nothing permanent. The Lord offers us what we are looking for...His precious Son, forgiveness of sins and an eternal home with Him! Praise our loving Savior! His blessings are eternal!

**Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**