

## 1 John 2:16

**For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.**

### For all that is in the world

1 John 2:15 states, “**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.**”

Satan is the god of this world, and he has his own value system which is contrary to God’s. His sinful schemes promote: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Every sin imaginable can be added to those three evils. These drives do not come from God but from the god of this world.

**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.**

When fleshly desires rule us, taking priority over God’s will, they cause us to violate God’s righteousness. God children are to set their priorities according to His eternal value system.

**Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

The treasures we seek are not to be worldly but eternal.

**John 12:25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

**1 Timothy 6:18-19 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.**

*Something to ponder: Am I seeking the treasures of the world or am I seeking the treasures of heaven?*

### The Lust

A longing for what is forbidden, sexual (evil) desire, lust (after). Lust as the seat of desires and the natural appetite impels (drive, force, urge to do something). *Vine’s NT Commentary*

**Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.**

### Of the flesh

Flesh: the body (as opposed to the soul) or spirit, or as a symbol of what is external. Our sinful nature, our natural tendencies toward evil things, dominated by sin and rebellion towards our Lord.

**James 1:14-15** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Because we are all born sinners our human nature desires to please ourselves, regardless of God's moral law.

**Romans 3:10-12** As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

**Ephesians 2:3** Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

*What examples in the Bible are we reminded of regarding sins of the flesh and its destruction?*

As we desire to please God and obey His Word we will not allow the lust of the flesh to control our lives. We will walk by faith, putting to death the deeds of the flesh.

**Romans 8:12-14** So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

**Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Galatians 5:16-17** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 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.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Ephesians 4:22-24** Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

**2 Timothy 2:22** So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

**Titus 2:11-12** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

Thank You Jesus for your sacrificial death that covers our sins! Because of You we can walk in a manner worthy of Your calling.

*Something to ponder: Am I pursuing a godly life of faith or my old sinful life of self-gratification?*

### The lust of the eyes

Ophthalmos - Vision or sight (Penetration, sharpness, singleness of motive.)

The lust of the eyes is the sinful desire to possess what we see or to have those things which have visual appeal.

**Matthew 6:22** “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light.

**Luke 11:24** Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.

*When we sinfully desire something, what does that say about our God? What does that say about us?*

We can get caught up in our selfish desires of always wanting more! We forget that God is our Sufficient Provider of all things! We can become ungrateful for what the Lord has given us in this life.

**Philippians 4:11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

*Something to ponder: Am I content with what God has given me?*

### And the pride of life

*Vine New Testament's Commentary* definition of pride – quackery, hence, arrogant display or boasting. A conceited sense of one's superiority.

**Psalms 10:4** In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

**Proverbs 6:16 & 17** There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes (this describes a feeling of pride and looking down upon others) a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood.

**Proverbs 8:13** The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

**Proverbs 16:5** Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

**Proverbs 21:24** “Scoffer” is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

**Galatians 6:3** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

*How does the Lord regard pride and arrogance?*

*Something to ponder: Am I focused on Christ and others or am I focused on me?*

*From whom does pride originate from?*

Satan’s sin was one of pride in rebelling against God and attempting to take from God the praise and glory that the Lord only deserves.

**Isaiah 14:12-15** “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.

*Do you see a pattern here? What is it?*

*When we sin, does it always involve the devil? Why?*

**Jeremiah 17:19** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

**Mark 7:21** For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery.

Our hearts are desperately sick, like an incurable sickness. We can sin on our volition. Our sin is an attitude of the heart! But rejoice! We have a Savior who has paid the penalty that was due to us!

*Something to ponder: Is pride stopping God from doing a transforming work in my life?*

*What can we do to avoid pride?*

**Ephesians 6:11-16** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

**1 Peter 1:8-9 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.**

One thing we can be sure of in this world, we will deal with sin! But praise our Lord Jesus Christ who has given us the ability and strength to fight sin and stand against the enemy and our own sinful desires. That is why it is so important to keep our eyes heavenward!

*What is the opposite of pride?*

Humble- Lowly; modest; meek; submissive; opposed to proud, haughty, arrogant or assuming. In an evangelical sense, having a low opinion of one's self, and a deep sense of unworthiness in the sight of God. *King James Dictionary*

To have a humble mindset is to think soberly about oneself. This means that we do not boast of our own accomplishments and abilities. Rather, we acknowledge that our sufficiency is of God in all of things. To be humble is to have the same mindset as Jesus Christ. Realizing that God is the One to give us the grace we need to be humble.

**Romans 12:3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”**

**2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.**

Last week Sharyn shared the words of Paul in Philippians 2:5-8, Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

*Something to ponder: Am I daily asking for God's grace to be humble?*

We are to seek to please God with our lives. We need to fear Him and keep His word. Our focus should be to humble ourselves under God's will and live and keep His commands.

**1 Peter 3:3-4 Do not let your adornment be merely outward...rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.**

*Something to ponder: Is my attitude pleasing and right before my holy God?*

Humility - “lowliness of mind,” so we see that humility is a heart attitude, not merely an outward appearance. *King James Dictionary*

Merriam-Webster simply defines humility as “freedom from pride or arrogance: the quality or state of being humble.” Not proud or haughty: not arrogant or assertive, reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference (respect) or submission, ranking low in a hierarchy or scale.

*Who is our example of humility?*

Jesus said in **Matthew 11:29** **Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. He did not value His own self-importance or honor, but freely gave it up in every situation so that God’s will could be carried out and God could be glorified through His life.

**Isaiah 57:15** **For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite**

**Proverbs 3:34** **Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.**

**Proverbs 29:23** **One’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.**

**Matthew 23:12** **Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.**

**James 4:6** **But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**

**1 Peter 5:6** **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.**

*Looking at the verses above, what are the rewards of humility and a humble spirit?*

We should be led to humility and humbleness by the remembrance of our sins. It also honors our Lord. The greatest promises are made to the humble. It is an irony in Christianity that it makes humility the avenue to glory. When we are truly humble the Lord is pleased!

**Isaiah 66:2** **All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.**

*What does God require from us?*

**Psalm 51:17** **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Philippians 2:3** **Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.**

**Ephesians 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

**Ephesians 4:1-4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit-just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.**

**1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."**

When we walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, we maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. The Spirit of peace is what we should desire for our Church, family, and others.

Is not of the Father but is of the world

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father.

Nothing of these inordinate attachments either comes from or leads to God. They are of this world; here they begin, flourish, and end. They deprave the mind, divert it from Divine pursuits, and render it utterly incapable of spiritual enjoyments. *Adam Clarke's New Testament Commentary*

Sin deprives us of a relationship with the Lord, we need to guard our heart physically and spiritually or we will not live a life of abundance in every area that God has created and ordained for us to do.

**Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart with all diligence for out of it flows the issues of life.**

**1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

*William Burkitt New Testament Commentary* states, "For all that is in the world; that is, all that is in esteem and vogue with the men of the world, is either the lust of the flesh, that is all sensual delights and enjoyments, which occasion intemperance (self-indulgence): or the lust of the eye, the desire of gold, silver, stately houses, rich gardens, which tend to gratify the eye: and the pride of life, or the desires of honours and dignities, high titles, and places of advancement, which tend to gratify our pride, all these are not of the Father; that is, they are not desires excited by him, nor are they pleasing to him, but are the desires of the men of the world, and proceed from that corruption which is in them."

The love of God and the love of earthly things are incompatible!

*Something to ponder: Which love do I choose?*

## 1 John 2:17

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

### The world is passing away

All these things in this world are continually fading away and perishing. This present world is coming to an end, and everything will be all burned up.

**1 Corinthians 7:31** And those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

**James 4:14** Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

**1 Peter 1:24** For all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls.

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

The day of the Lord is coming, and everything will be dissolved. We need to be careful how we live because how we live is going to determine what our forever life is like.

**2 Peter 3:11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness.

*Something to ponder: Am I living in holiness and godliness?*

### Along with all its desires

All the worldly vain pursuits and pleasures are passing away too.

### But whoever does the will of God

*Webster's Dictionary* defines will as diligent purposefulness, determination, self-control, self-discipline, a desire, purpose, or determination.

We are to seek the pleasure, profit, and honor that comes from above and to live purposefully for what is secure.

### Abides forever

The Lord is the unchangeable source of joy, happiness and pleasure and He has given believers in Christ the gift of eternity with Him! Nothing in this world will be able to compare with what God has promised to believers! Forever and ever! Amen!