

Do not love the world, love the Father.

Intro – You were created with the world, in the world, from the dust of the world. You were created for knowledge. You were created for action. You were created to make and do. You were created for pleasure. The devil from the beginning has sought to cause men to fall by getting them to value the creation and pleasure in it more than they value God, or to use it in a way that dishonors God. This is the sum and substance of his system - the “world”. You cannot join in this system and love God. God commands you therefore **Do not love the world, but love the Father through his world.** **There** are some texts which simply convey information or give a simple command – God created the sea. Do not covet your neighbor’s donkey. Then there are texts like the proverbs, which do not yield their nectar without some prolonged thinking – this is one of the second kind, which will require our close and careful attention. As we move forward each section will build on the section before it.

T: What is the world? And what are the things in the world? – 15

1. The world is not the creation simply considered, it is the God-dishonoring system of the devil and sinful men

- Sinful unconverted mankind are called the world- **Lk 16:8; John 15:18-19;**
- Satan’s system and kingdom is called the world– **1Jn 5:19; John 12:31; Eph 2:1-3** <no devil’s providence>
- The things in the world are all the objects of our desire viewed through Satan’s system

T: What is the love of the world? -

2. The Love of the world is valuing anything more than God or contrary to the commands of God

- How described: **15** Love of Father not in him, **16** Not of the Father, **17** passing away, **17** against will of God
- *Not simply strong desire or enjoyment of creation* – **Gen 2:9, 1Peter 3:10**
- **The** world is loved when we value anything out of proportion to its true value: BIG PICTURE = TRUTH
- Not of the Father for it is not in his nature to value anything more than what is actually most valuable, namely, himself – the devil and the world want you to value everything and anything more than God. <Esau>
- **The** world is loved when it is treated as eternal, ultimate or final: God is **eternal**, the system that devalues him is not – but it tries to deceive men into thinking it is – or at least that your life here is all there is and is therefore ultimate- No! Eternity is ultimate. <Demas>
- **The** world is loved when God is absent: The will of God has the glorifying of God by enjoying him forever at its center – the world lacks that
- Beware of the devil’s direct program – it is systematic – conspiratorial

T: How is the world loved? John gets more specific.

3. The world is loved by breaking God’s commands in order to obtain our treasure 16, Eph 2:3

- The **Desires of flesh and eyes** sums up all pleasures – using your being (body, senses, mind) in a god-less way.
- You desire what God has forbidden or in a way God has forbidden **James 1:14-15**
- *You sin to obtain* **James 4:1-5** You were made for God and this is prostitution-adultery.
- **Pride of life**-You glory in yourself, (God made you awesome, you did not) –I’m the source –statue -theft

T: How then do we obey this commandment?- First, how we should not try to obey it.

4. How not to not love the world.

- Not the denial of the propriety of pleasure in the creation – **1Tim 4:1-6**
- Not the restriction of certain really yummy, beautiful, or pleasurable things – **Col 2:20-23**
- Not leaving the world - **1Cor 5:9-10, John 17:15**

T: Now, that we have seen how not to try this, here is

5. How to not love the world.

- Don’t seek your own glory, *long for God’s* – so that God would be glorified – **1Peter 4:11**
- Deny yourself what is sinful– **Eph 4:22; Titus 2:12, 2Tim 2:22** so you can obtain what is valuable **Jn 12:25**
- Fight fire with fire – **Prov 5:18-20** <your readers own a Bible>
- Enjoy the creation in a God-centered way – **Ps 19:1, Is 6:3; Ps 33:5 :: 1Cor 10:31**
- Mortify it while it is still in the mind – **James 1:14-15**
- Change your mind – **Rom 12:1-2, 2Cor 3:18**
- Love the Father – Chalmers (get air out of cup) : Put off and Put on

Conclusion: You were created for pleasure. Whom have I in heaven but **you** and there is nothing on earth I desire beside **you**. God made you to enjoy him, and to enjoy him through his world. Do not use this world to replace God, or apart from God. Use it in no other way than to increase your knowledge of God, your joy in God, your seeing of his glory. Enjoy his goodness, do not replace it. **Do not love the world, love the Father through his world.**