

## WEEK 14: DO YOU LOVE THE WORLD?

**John at this point has given us 5 tests of being a True Believer.**

1. 1 Jn 1:1-4 RIGHT VIEW OF CHRIST
2. 1 JN 1:5-2:2 CONFESSION OF SIN – Christians will confess their sin and continually mourn the sin that remains.
3. 1 JN 2:3-6 OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD
4. 1 JN 2:7-11 LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN
5. 1 JN 2:12-14 ARE YOU GROWING SPIRITUALLY

**John now continues with another characteristic of a true believer, “DO YOU LOVE THE WORLD?”**

After discussing the need to strive to grow spiritually, **John gives a straight up warning to all that name the name of Christ; “do not love the world”.**

**Love of the world contradicts love for God.**

It is the same warning that James gave, James 4:4 **You adulteresses, do you not know [this is actually a rhetorical question– ie you should know this if you are truly a Christian] that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

John writes, Read:

1Jo 2:15 **Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

1Jo 2:16 **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.**

1Jo 2:17 **And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

### I. COMMAND OF GOD

- A. We must remember that the context of this letter is that it is written to those professing to be believers.
- B. These verses are yet another test that you may truly know that you know Him.
- C. 1Jo 2:15 **Do not love the world nor the things in the world.**
- D. Word “love” is repeated 46 times in John’s first epistle
- E. **1 Jn 2:5 – love was directly connected to obedience**
  1. 1Jo 2:5 **but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:**
- F. **1 Jn 2:10→ John wrote of the test of love,**
  1. 1Jo 2:10 **Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.**

2. Believers are commanded to love as God Himself is love
3. Love God and love other believers, love righteousness and holiness
4. This is love that God loves and demands of those that love Him.

**G. But God does not command us to “love all things”!**

1. There is a love that God hates → love for the world and things in the world
2. Must love what God loves and hate what God hates

**H. 1Jo 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world.**

1. Here John give us the **EXCEPTION to love**,
2. actually another test: Do you love the world?
3. This is **one of the most explicit statements in Scripture** about who is and who is NOT a true believer

**I. Do you love the world? Or do you love God?**

1. **Cannot love both**
2. Some may say, “Well I love God, but I love a lot of the things in the world around me also.”
3. God’s Word is plain “do not love the world”
4. **Love of the world precludes love of God.**

**J. love→ agapao ag-ap-ah’-o -> this is the all-in sacrificial love, same word Jesus used of Himself to Peter, “Peter, do you love Me?”**

1. Love with loyal devotion; delighting on what is its focus
2. **It is a love Jesus used of God, Luke 10:27 And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."**
3. **John is giving warning to those that have pledged allegiance to Christ but are now turning to chase after the world.**
4. **This was not just a single instance he is suggesting, but it was a developing lifestyle.**

**K. the world → kosmos – world system; world affairs, the aggregate of things earthly; the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ**

1. **John uses this word many times and different ways–**
  - a. Jn 3:16 – God so loved the world – referring to all kinds of people, races in the world. Offer of salvation is not limited to one race or country.
  - b. Jn 17 – I do not pray for the whole world; meaning all humanity, but for the special ones of the elect, believers

L. Here refers to **world of sin or the world of the devil**

1. Not referring to just an appreciation of the things that God created in the world
2. This is a **love for the World system**– its ways, its passions, its desires
3. World of sin→ anti- God, Anti- Christ, anti-righteousness, anti-biblical truth

M. God commands: **James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.**

1. Warning is to not be taken in, not to be soiled or stained by it
2. If you play in it– you will become stained by it!

N. **Satan is the ruler of this world–**

1. **Joh 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.**
2. **Joh 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,**
3. World actually hates Christ and those that follow Him→ **John 15:18 ¶ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.**
4. World loves itself and stands against those that are NOT of the world→ **John 15:19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.**

O. Believers are **IN** the world but no longer of the world → **chosen out of the world.**

1. John states: **1Jo 5:4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**
2. **overcomes→ nikao nik-ah'-o—prevails, conquers, get the victory**
3. **True believers overcome the battle of the world**
4. World will always come against true Christians– Jesus said it is a given truth!
5. **World was against Jesus and even now will be against all who model their lives after Him→ John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.**
6. If Christ is your Master, it will show in your life and conversation, and the world will persecute you!

P. **It is not really about you, it is because of Christ!**

1. Your Christian life is an offense, it is an accusation against them.

2. John 15:21 But all these things they will do to you **on account of my name**, because they do not know him who sent me.
3. They may speak about God, they may even pretentiously pray to God – but **they do NOT know God, they are of their father, the devil!**
4. They hate Christ and therefore hate God!→Joh 15:23 **Whoever hates me hates my Father also.**
5. It should be expected of believers— the world will hate you!

**Q. So John gives another test of true salvation: “Do you love the world?”**

**R. God, NOT the world, should have priority, first place, in your life**

S. Goes on to add, “**nor the things in the world.**”

T. Same word “kosmos”

1. Not referring to the physical earth
2. Refers to evil things in the world that pull the believer away from God
3. Evil spiritual system of the world
4. Worldly possessions, worldly pursuits, pleasures

U. **things in the world** are those things that are more important than God

1. **Idols in life**
2. Anything in your life can become an idol as you allow them to become more important than your relationship with Christ, more than your pursuit of the things of Christ.
3. Job, family, entertainment, success, popularity, sports, etc, etc
4. Things that are NOT evil in and of themselves, but can take the place of God in your life!
5. First commandment: De 6:5 **You shall love the LORD your God with **all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.****
6. **God requires this of all believers– nothing is to be before Him.**

V. When we repent of our sins—we are confessing that we have turned away from the world

1. forsaken our sin, our love for the world and the things of the world
2. That is what you were saved “from” – your sin was of the world!

**W. Does NOT mean you cannot have things that you enjoy in your life, but these things cannot possess you!**

1. All good things come down from the Father of lights,
2. But Satan can use any of these things to pull you away from God

3. **Recall the Rich Young ruler:** he was searching for something to give him security- eternal life, but when challenged with what he was willing to give up to have it, he went away sad.
4. Why? Because “he had many things”
5. Those things owned him! He gave up his desire for eternal life to keep his worldly things.

**X. World Wisdom and world things DO NOT LEAD US TO GOD→ OPPOSITE**

1. **1Co 1:21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the **world did not know God through wisdom**, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.
2. God’s wisdom is actually “folly”, foolishness to the world
3. Things of this world can blind an unbeliever to the things of God → **2Co 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.**

Y. John issues a command, a warning→ do not love and chase the things of this world!

Z. Believers are commanded to love God with all our heart, soul and strength and NOT love the world!

**II. CONTRADICTION WITH GOD**

A. **V15B** **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

B. Love of God is in direct Contradiction with loving the world

C. Either you are a true believer characterized by a love and obedience to God or you are an unbeliever, in love with the Satan controlled world and live in disobedience to God

**D. It is NOT BOTH AND!**

**E. Only 2 groups of people in this world**

1. Believers who love God and His ways
2. Unbelievers who love the world and the things of the world

F. John has already explained that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all (1:5)

1. **1Jo 1:6** **If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;**

2. **Cannot consistently live in darkness**, “live like the world system” and think that we are in fellowship with God – it is a contradiction!

**G. But Christians can and do get caught up in the things of the world**

1. Fall into sin
2. Eyes get off the prize
3. Drawn into the world
4. As love for world increases, love for God decreases,
5. Priority of the world increases, priorities of God decreases
6. Both cannot coexist!

H. Paul explained—> time to wake up!

1. Ro 13:11 ¶ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.**

2. Commanded to **“put on the Lord Jesus Christ”**

I. Christianity is NOT just like jumping in a swimming pool and becoming instantly all wet

1. We must strive, we must battle, we must guard, we must fight against the flesh

2. Takes action, takes effort

3. **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires**

J. **Love of the world is in direct contradiction or conflict with love for Christ and God!**

1. No one can serve two masters, you will always love one and hate the other!

K. **We are commanded NOT** to continually be like or conform to the world system.

L. Ro 12:2 **Do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

M. **We are commanded to “renew our mind” with God things, ie God’s Word**

1. We must conform our mind to God’s mind

2. By doing such we, **“discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”**

N. 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**.

1. What does the world system do to an individual?

2. What happens in the heart of a lover of the world?

3. Jas 4:1 ¶ **What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?** 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

O. **John is not saying that Christians are to abandon the world and live secluded**

1. Not to completely separate themselves from the world

2. Christians can be successful business men, can have possessions

3. But true believers understand where all these things come from

4. And they hold them all with an open hand.

5. Christians can have many things . . .

6. But **Christians are commanded NOT to LOVE the World or its things!**

7. We must guard our heart from a love of the world
  8. Our love must be exclusive for God
- P. John is plainly stating that Love for God and love for the world cannot coexist!
1. [Mt 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.
  2. Have to decide who or what you belong!
  3. Master with either Jesus Christ or World!

### III. CONTENTS OF THE WORLD

- A. John continues to describe what is actually in the world, what is it made of, what does it contain?
- B. [1Jo 2:16](#) For **all that is in the world**, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
- C. [For all that is in the world](#)→ John doesn't say **some is bad but some is good**
1. [all, everything not from God](#)– nothing good in it!
- D. Again he is not talking about the physical world which God created as what he is referring to [is not from the Father](#)
1. Is talking about things that have their origin in this world
  2. These things are from the devil
  3. Things that are meant to pull you away from the love of God and His ways, His will!
- E. What is at the heart of the world system? What are these things of the world?
1. **3 categories of world things**: [lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life](#)
  2. "and"→ These things work together
- F. [lust of the flesh](#) → cravings; fleshly desires including sexual desires and covetness
1. sinful desires of the heart; Internal of hidden sins
  2. Cause men to disobey God's specific commands.
  3. [Ex 20:17](#) "You shall not covet your **neighbor's house**; you shall not covet your neighbor's **wife**, or his **male servant**, or his **female servant**, or his **ox**, or his **donkey**, or **anything** that is your neighbor's."
  4. Include things you do not have, but your flesh desires them
  5. **Sin of discontentment begins here in the lust of the flesh**
  6. Originate in the flesh, the heart of man's nature and they bring forth sin.
  7. [Gal 5:16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
  8. Desires of the flesh exist even in believers- flesh is unredeemed

9. **Warning to guard and master the flesh**

- a. Ga 5:17 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.
- b. Lust of the flesh is NO JOKE! It exists and it is your enemy!
- c. Flesh pulls you away from God , to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
- d. These things can lead to immorality and sin (Gal 5:19-21)

G. **lust of the eyes**

1. Again lust is sinful desires of the heart, Internal of hidden sins,
2. here that which enter through the eyes
3. Eyes are the window, the channel to the soul
4. Light can enter here but so can darkness!
5. Lust that come through the eyes
6. Lured by lust, the eyes are the instrument that can cause us to sin
7. Jesus warned of how detrimental the eye can be: Mt 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who **looks** at a woman with **lustful intent** has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
  - a. **looks** – is not just a quick picture that comes before our eyes
    - (1) to gaze, discern mentally, perceive
    - (2) to turn our thoughts or direct the mind to a thing, weigh carefully
8. **Solomon was a wise man but did not control his lust for what he saw**
  - a. Ec 2:10 And **whatever my eyes** desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.
9. **Direct connection between what we allow to enter our heart through the window of our eyes and sin that follows.**
10. **World system's intent is for you is to fail and Our eyes can make us stumble**
  - a. Jesus warned His followers and the world→Mt 18:7 ¶ "Woe to the world because of **its stumbling blocks!** For it is **inevitable that stumbling blocks come;** but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!
  - b. Jesus said stumbling blocks are coming– **it is inevitable** – you need to be ready for them.
  - c. Yes those who cause them will be judged, but you can fall victim
11. **Jesus continues to explain where those stumbling blocks come from**
  - a. Mt 18:9 "If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is **better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.**
  - b. Not necessarily sexual lust here, it is looking at the world around you and desire all the things of the world!
  - c. It is Lust of the eyes for the things of the world.

12. **Recall Eve (Gen 2:6)** she saw that the tree was good . . . , delight to the eyes
  - a. She did not call out to God for help to rebuke the devil
  - b. Lust of the eyes overwhelmed the command that God had put in her heart
  - c. She ate– she sinned
  
13. **Recall King David** (2 Sam 11:2) he saw, translated “he gazed, looked intently” at a woman bathing”
  - a. He did not turn away even though he had personally as king made his own copy of the Law and was to be reading from it daily
  - b. He knew that fornication and adultery was sin
  - c. But the lust of the eyes overwhelmed what God surely had put in his heart
  - d. And “he sent for her!”
  
14. Lust begins in the eyes and if left uncontrolled, it drives the arrow of sin to the heart!
  - a. [Mt 6:22](#) "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
  
15. **We must guard what enters the lamp of our heart.**
  
16. **You know your weakness— you must guard those weakness.**

#### H. [boastful pride of life](#)

1. what a person does– it is actual behavior; External, obvious and revealed sin
2. [α'λαζονεία](#) *alazoneia* *al-ad-zon-i'-a*
3. Braggert talk about their own power and resources
  - a. Trusting in stability of earthy things
  - b. One who brags about his own things

#### I. First two are individual sin, the latter occurs publically

#### J. First two lusts create pride in the heart of a man.

1. I get these, then I am more important
2. I am better because of what I have

#### K. John states none of this “[is not from the Father, but is from the world.](#)”

1. [lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life](#), do NOT come from Father but they come from the world, ie, the devil.
2. These things have no connection to the One the believer calls Father!
3. These things are the opposite of Christlikeness– all are sins of the flesh!
4. All these things are at war with the soul of a believer
5. And these things are all around you! What will you chose?

- L. **Recall again the temptation of Eve? What was the first question devil asked?**
1. Questioning what God says.
  2. What was the real temptation – lust of the eyes
  3. Which continued , “Good to eat”– lust of the flesh . . .
  4. Which then became a prideful thing, “I can be as wise as God” – boastful pride of life
- M. Peter wrote: [1Pet 2:11](#) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to **abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.**
1. Worldly lusts are like a spy in a war for your soul→ undermining our hearts
  2. Causes us to disbelieve God!
- N. **How is God’s love demonstrated towards you?**
1. Good and perfect gifts, guides you, protects you, loves you to provide a Savior!
- O. **Would God ever keep anything good from His children? NO!**
- P. If , [the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world](#); who is actually giving these things to you? Satan!
- Q. Satan is the ruler of the world and is one who is stocking the pantries of the world system
- R. [Jas 1:17](#) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
- S. So if every good and perfect Gift is from God→ who is giving all the other gifts in this world? Satan
- T. That is the issue that John is bringing out here → you cannot love the things that Satan gives and continue to claim to be a lover of Christ!
- U. Jesus stated: [John 8:47](#) Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."
- V. Lovers of the world and its goods are not lovers of God because these things are NOT from God!

#### IV. CONCLUDING COMPARISON

- A. [1Jo 2:17](#) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
- B. John gave the most important reason not to love the world in vv15, 16.
1. Because you cannot love the world and God at the same time.
  2. Things of the world system are not from God.
- C. Now John gives another truth to be considered when one is deciding who or what to love.

- D. You may make your boast in your own power and life, but John gives us the ultimate reminder of the conclusion to all that is in the world . . .
1. “And the world is passing away along with its desires”
  2. Nothing in this world is lasting, it is all temporary
  3. None of it is steadfast
  4. Why would we ever become attached to something that is only temporary?
- E. **Everything in this world in is a process of degradation**
1. [Ro 8:20](#) For the creation was **subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.
  2. [futility](#) – vanity, frailty, want of vigor
  3. God made all that is in the world temporary!
  4. People, pleasures and desires are all fleeting, [passing away](#)
- F. **Putting ones trust and affection in this world will reap a harvest of instability and you will eventually stumble and fall into sin!**
- G. The one that puts their affection, their love in the world will conclude just like the world.
- H. **Being in a continuous love affair with and lusting after the world and the things of the world is an indicator that you have never truly loved God.**
- I. Paul wrote: [1Co 7:31](#) . . .[For the present form of this world is passing away.](#)
- J. **Death is the great equalizer**—> nothing you have in life will survive your death except . . .
1. Your soul
  2. Your faith in Christ
  3. Accumulation of the worlds treasure will not buy you one second of heaven!
  4. Nothing this world gives survives the sting of death!
- K. After explaining that all in the world is temporal, John then gives the total opposite that is true with those who truly love God and turn from the world —> “[but whoever does the will of God abides forever.](#)”
1. Why is this true? —> because you are part of the eternal family of God!
  2. Because . . .[Mr 3:35](#) For [whoever does the will of God](#), he is my brother and sister and mother."
  3. These are true believers, they are the family of Jesus Christ!

- L. Opposite the worldly things, all that God wills to occur and promises will live forever
1. John's statement reveals the futility of living life chasing the world
  2. Refusing to listen the call of God to repent and believe in Him that you may have Eternal Life
  3. All that God gives to you spiritually will last forever!
  4. His love is before the foundation of the World
  5. His forgiveness is guaranteed eternal by the sacrifice of His Son.
  6. His promises are eternally fulfilled!
  7. Eternal life is as sure as if all has already been fulfilled and we are sitting with Christ on high!
  8. It is as if you are already with Him!
- M. John gives these truths for us to consider and decide who we are?
1. Are you a lover of God or are you a lover of the world.
  2. You cannot be both.
  3. He gives a warning to us all to not let our lusts control us, direct us, cause us to fall.
- N. He begs the question that Jesus Himself asked, [Lu 9:25](#) For **what does it profit** a man if **he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?**

Read Rom 12:2; 13:11-14. What does Paul warn us about here?

Read James 1:27; 4:1-7. What does the world do to a person? What happens in the heart of a lover of the world?

Read Eph 2:3, 1 Pet 2:11.

How is God's love demonstrated towards you?

What is God's desire for you?

Would God ever keep anything good from His children?

Why would a true believer ever go where God warns him not to go?

Read 1 Jn 2:5, 10. How do we demonstrate our love for God?

how do I know if I love the world?