



Do Not Love the World

By Shannon Ford on October 14, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 John 2

In 1 John 2:1-11, the Apostle John is very clear that Christians must walk in the light of God's commandments and love their brothers. This passage provides biblical truths about God's requirements for His children's conduct in this life. In 1 John 2:12-17, John stresses that having a true love for Jesus is the answer to many challenges for the sincere Christian. One challenge that Christians face is worldliness. John tells us to not love the world. The "world" in this context refers to the attitudes and values that disregard God or are blatantly against God. It certainly does not refer to God's natural creation or even humanity who Christ died for (John 3:16), but it refers to the part of human affairs that are under the authority of the devil (John 12:31; 1 John 5:19).

The reason we are not to love the world is that the world's values are in opposition to God. However, our flesh is often tempted by the world in three ways. The *desires of the flesh* are the sinful interests and sensual pleasures that draw us away from God. The *desire of eyes* refers to covetousness and materialism. The *pride of life* refers to being proud and arrogant about one's position in life. We might paraphrase this whole passage by saying, "Do not embrace the world's ways or goods. When you do, it squeezes out your love for God."

We need to understand that no Christian becomes worldly suddenly. Worldliness creeps up on a believer; it is a gradual process. When we focus our desire on the world rather than on Christ, we focus on things that never satisfy and do not last. The more we focus our desires on the world, allowing the world's mindset to take root and grow, the more we push God to the edges of our heart. We need to stop dumpster diving for the treasures of the world and mine the immeasurable riches of Christ. It is in him that we will find our desires satisfied.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, grant us the discernment to see what is worldly in our lives, both in attitude and in actions. Give us the courage to take a stand against it and the strength to be faithful and obedient to You. Help us focus our time and energy on things that make a difference in the kingdom of God. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 John 3

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