

Series: Family Fellowship  
“What the World Offers but Cannot Give” # 7  
1 John 2:15-17  
5-13-18 Sun PM

At first glance, verses 12-14 and 15-17 do not seem to go together- little children, young men, and fathers with “love not the world.”

Verses 12-14 gives us the encouragement to heed the exhortation of verses 15-17. If we belong to God and know him as father and heaven is our home, we should give our affections to this life and this world.

John warns us six times about the world. The “World” used here does not refer to...God’s good creation [Acts 17:24] or even the world of people Jesus died for [John 3:16; 1 John 2:2].

John refers to the world system led by “the evil one” whom we have overcome that is characterized by the desires of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life [v. 16]. The world offers things that are temporary and transient with no lasting value.

We are not to love the mindset, values, and conduct of the world that is contrary to God’s Word. We live and think like kingdom people and not the world.

**TT-** John shares three promises the world offers but cannot deliver. We will take an affection test at the end...

**I. The World Cannot Give You What You Need (v. 15).**

The objects of our affections need to be rightly ordered if we are truly to find ultimate and lasting satisfaction.

Why does John command us not to love the world or the things of the world? To love the world is to not love Father God, which is the love we are to pursue and need.

**John 8:44**, Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Choose God the Father, not the worldly enticements of the father of lies. Not to love God the Father is to love a lesser lover- one that can never satisfy, who can never give you what you truly need.

**I. The World Cannot Give You What You Need (v. 15).**

**II. The World Cannot Give You What It Promises (v. 16).**

Here we see the weapons that the world and the devil uses to appeal to our flesh. The battle plan of Satan is as old as the creation of man.

**Gen. 3:6**, And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

These are the same weapons Satan used on the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

1. The desires of the flesh appeal to our appetites (v.16a).

Lust speaks of “desire” or cravings, or passion. The word is neutral and the object determines whether the desire is good or bad.

“flesh” here speaks of the tendency and bent of humans to fulfill natural desires in a way contrary to God’s word. Sin fulfills our desires of the flesh.

We are not sinful because we sin, but we are sinful because we sin.

2. The desire of the eyes appeals to our affection (v. 16b).

The eyes are not evil but are the windows to the soul [mind] by which sinful desires enter into the mind. David’s eyes led him to lie, commit adultery, and murder.

3. The Pride of life (v.16c).

Pride is vainglory, boasting, or arrogance. This refers to the braggart who tries to impress others. This is the “I, me, my” person.

This person glorifies himself rather than God. They focus on their stuff, career, achievements and social standing. They are easily turned toward the world.

**James 4:6**, But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

**I. The World Cannot Give You What You Need (v. 15).**

**II. The World Cannot Give You What it Promises (v. 16).**

1. The desires of the flesh appeal to our appetites
2. The desire of the eyes appeals to our affection
3. The Pride of life

**III. The World Cannot Give You What Will Last (v. 17).**

John closes by contrasting two loves, two lives, and two approaches to life.

Why give your love to something that is passing away, a worthless fake, an imitation of the true and real? The things of God and the will of God will last forever.

If you want it to last then it has to be connected to the will of God.

Let’s take a 10 question test that reveals the object of our love:

1. Is your focus on you or God?
2. Do you want to make as much money as possible or give as much away to help others?

3. Do you want to make your name known or make His name known?
4. Do you live to please yourself or please God?
5. Do you worship yourself as an idol or worship God?
6. Do you want to be served or serve others?
7. Do you promote self or promote others?
8. Do you seek worldly wisdom or Godly wisdom?
9. Are you never satisfied with what you have or content with what you have?
10. Do you seek to do the will of the world or the will of God?