

So Far in 1 John...

- John the eye witness Jesus is fully God and fully man
- God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all
- If you claim to be in Christ, you must walk as Jesus walked
- Walking in the light is taking the path of love there is no room for hate

1 John 2:12-17...

- ¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.
- ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.
- I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.
- ¹⁴ I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.
- I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

1 John 2:12-17...

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Expressions of a Father's Heart

- >John's message is greater than the sinister realities he is warning about
- Throughout the letter John pauses his argument to remind his readers of who they are
 - > His goal is to reassure his readers of their identity
- ➤ John uses the stark contrast to distinguish between walking in the light and walking in darkness

Expressions of a Father's Heart

1. Children (all believers)

- 2 different words translated "dear children"
- V.12 all believers is in view
- V.14 new believers is most likely in view
- Your sins have been forgiven
- You know your Father

Expressions of a Father's Heart

- 1. Children (all believers)
- 2. Fathers (those mature in the faith)
 - You know him who is from the beginning x 2
 - "from the beginning" denotes a deeper understanding of who God is and a knowledge of what he has done for us

Expressions of a Father's Heart

- 1. Children (all believers)
- 2. Fathers (those mature in the faith)
- 3. Young Men (those who are young in the faith)
 - Most likely young in the faith and in age (youth)
 - You have overcome the evil one x 2
 - You are strong
 - The word of God lives in you

Love for the World

- ➤ Path of light correct affections and love for God and others (clearly seen in previous passage)
- ➤ Path of darkness misplaced love for the world and unhealthy desire for temporary things
- >The "World" in the Bible
 - 1. The physical earth
 - 2. Humanity (God so loved the world...)
 - 3. Satan's system for opposing Christ and his work
 - Opposing God's commands, desires and will on earth
 - Unseen God's enemy

Love for the World

Worldliness is not so much about behavior as it is about the posture of one's heart

- 1. Lust of the flesh craving to satisfy sinful appetites
 - Appeals to your normal appetites and tempts you to satisfy them in sinful ways
 - The enemy's trick...
 - illusion that satisfying your inner desires is natural and good regardless of what it is or how you do it
 - happiness and contentment is found in satisfying your appetites with temporary things

Love for the World

Worldliness is not so much about behavior as it is about the posture of one's heart

- 1. Lust of the flesh craving to satisfy sinful appetites
- 2. Lust of the eyes craving for what we see
 - Pleasures that appeals to sight and mind
 - We see, we want, we covet (Achan Joshua 7)
 - Advertising relies heavily on this trap
 - Enemy's trick...
 - More of what everyone else has will bring happiness
 - Satisfying your desire for things will bring contentment

Love for the World

Worldliness is not so much about behavior as it is about the posture of one's heart

- 1. Lust of the flesh craving to satisfy sinful appetites
- 2. Lust of the eyes craving for what we see
- 3. Pride of life pride in achievements & stuff
 - Status, wealth, power, beauty, etc.
 - "Look at me" a culture of narcissists
 - Social media pride of life flaunted and celebrated
 - Enemy's trick this life is really about you and your quest to satisfy your appetites and obtain glory

Walk in the Light

- 1. The BIG problem... We constantly drift toward love for the world for what we can see, for what appearses our appetites and for what elevates ourselves and brings us glory
 - We want the things God gives, but not the Giver
 - We take God's gifts, but ignore how he tells us to use them
 - God knows that love for the world is slavery slavery to your own sinful cravings

- 1. The BIG problem... drift toward love for the world
- 2. The BIG Solution... embrace the life Jesus wants you to live!

Do Not Love the World

God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there.

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Walk in the Light

- 1. The BIG problem... drift toward love for the world
- 2. The BIG Solution... embrace the life Jesus wants you to live!
 - Jesus offers us life to the full (John 10:10)
 - A.W. Tozer... "Your affection for Jesus is first. All other affections are last"
 - The call for the believer is to deny those sinful craving rather than indulge them (Luke 9:23-26)
 - "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." (Jim Elliot)
 - Beware the enemy's tricks and walk in the light!

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or to be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that country and to help others to do the same."

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

