

I John 2:15-17

- Intro.**
- Can you detect a connection between 2:12-14 and 2:15-17?
 - Is there a similar connection of “the evil one” and “the world” in John 17:14-16?
 - Does John make a transition from spiritual condition in 2:12-14 to behavioral expression in 2:15-17?

- Vs. 15**
- What does John mean by “the world”?
 - the physical world? - the created world?
 - the world of mankind? - the world of humanity?
 - the fallen world-order? - the world-system of evil?
 - What are “the things of the world”?
 - created things of the earth?
 - materials objects or products?
 - people and relationships?
 - attitudes or desires of the fallen world-order?
 - What does it mean to “love” the world?
 - have affection for?
 - be attracted and seduced by?
 - find pleasure in?
 - be devoted to?
 - give oneself to?
 - be connected with?
 - brought into union with?
 - Why is it that “if anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him”?
(cf. Matt. 6:24; James 4:4)
 - Does “the love of the Father” refer to...
 - our love for God?
 - God’s love for us?
 - God’s love as the essence of His being and character (cf. I John 4:8,16)
 - Does John mean that anyone (a Christian?) who “loves the world”...
 - was never loved by God?
 - never loved God?
 - never had God dwelling in him?
 - no longer has God dwelling in him?
 - does not have God’s love functioning in him?

- Vs. 16**
- Is “all that is in the world” (16) equivalent to “the things in the world” (15)?
 - Is John making a comprehensive definition or description of “worldliness”? Explain...
 - Are the three phrases that John employs to amplify “all that is in the world” best understood as...
 - temptations of the world?
 - vices of the world?
 - taboos of worldliness?
 - desires of the world?
 - attitudinal orientations of the world?
 - Does the lust of the flesh” refer to...
 - sexual attraction?
 - personal gratification?
 - physical desires?
 - selfish orientation?
 - sinful patterning of human desires?
 - Does “the lust of the eyes” refer to...
 - covetousness, envy, greed?
 - personal aspiration?

- sensory stimuli?
- prurient interests?
- visible orientation?
- Does “the boastful pride of life” refer to...
 - material acquisition?
 - personal reputation?
 - arrogance of prestige or power?
 - orientation of self-sufficiency?
 - ostentatious display?
- By indicating that these are “not from the Father” is John implying that...
 - these are not consistent with the character of God?
 - these are not derived from God as the source?
 - God does not tempt us in these ways?
- By indicating that these are “from the world” is John implying that...
 - the world is full of these things?
 - the world is the source of these things?
 - the spirit that energizes the world is the source of these things?
 - these are what the world advocates as ultimate reality?

- Vs. 17** • When John writes that “the world is passing away” does he mean that...
- this world is not my home, I’m just a passing through?
 - the world is in the process of dissolution, degeneration and disintegration?
 - the world-system is defeated by Christ’s victory in crucifixion and resurrection?
(cf. John 16:33; I John 3:8)
 - the world is temporal and transitory?
 - In what way is “the desire of the world” passing away?
 - the selfish desire of the world is fleeting and vacuous?
 - the world and its ways are on the way out? (cf. Cor. 7:31)
 - the self-oriented desire of the world has no divine teleology?
 - the person caught up in worldly desires has no future?
 - worldly desire is temporal?
 - Who is “the one who does the will of God”?
 - What does it mean to “do the will of God”?
 - keep His commandments? (cf. 2:3,4; 3:22,24; 5:2,3)
 - determine the exact decisions that God wants us to make?
 - obey every dictate that God demands of us?
 - allow the life of Jesus to be lived out in our behavior?
 - Is there a contrast between “passing away” and “abides forever”?
 - Does “abides forever” mean...
 - quantitative endurance of time?
 - qualitative stability of character?
 - qualitative permanency of relationship?

- Conc.** • Which of these verses best describes John’s intent in these verses?
- Rom. 13:14
 - I Cor. 10:12
 - I Peter 1:14
 - I Peter 2:11
 - Is the purpose of these verses best described as...
 - avoiding worldliness?
 - recognizing temptation?
 - behaving like who you’ve become?
 - abiding in the eternal?
 - What application can be made from these verses to your own life?