

1 John 2:15-17

Do Not Love the World

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17

When John says “Do not love the world,” what does he mean by “the world”?

Misunderstanding #1: Assuming that “the world” means material things

You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man’s heart.

Psalm 104:14–15

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

1 Timothy 4:1–4

When John says “Do not love the world,” what does he mean by “the world”?

Misunderstanding #1: Assuming that “the world” means material things

Misunderstanding #2: Assuming that “the world” means people of this world

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders?

1 Corinthians 5:9–12

“Jesus dined with sinners, but he didn’t sin with sinners. Jesus lived in the world, but he didn’t live like the world. This is the Jesus paradox.”

“God calls us to practice hospitality as a daily way of life, not as an occasional activity when time and finance allow. Radically ordinary hospitality means this: God promises to put the lonely in families (Ps. 68:6), and he intends to use your house as living proof.”

Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*

When John says “Do not love the world,” what does he mean by “the world”?

“All that is in the world... is not from the Father but is from the world.” (1 John 2:16)

“We know that we are from God, but the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19)

“The world” is the sphere of the influence of Satan, it is all that is opposed to God

What is wrong with the world?

1. “The desires of the flesh” means being controlled by physical cravings.
2. “The desires of the eyes” means a constant desire for more of the things we see around us.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 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! 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.

Matthew 6:19–24

What is wrong with the world?

1. “The desires of the flesh” means being controlled by physical cravings.
2. “The desires of the eyes” means a constant desire for more of the things we see around us.
3. “The pride of life” means boastfulness (about earthly possessions?).

What is wrong with loving the world?

Love of the world drives out love for God

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:10