

Fellowship With the Faithful One:

Love Undivided

1 John 2:15-17

Focus: Loving the world equals unfaithfulness to God

So far in 1 John we see the marks or evidence of children of God: Love of light, love of obedience, love of others...and now, NOT love of the world

- Love
 - Affection and devotion
- World
 - Not the physical world. The invisible, spiritual system of evil and all that it offers in opposition to God, His word, and His people.
 - Designed and managed by Satan; purpose is to oppose God
 - Its aim is to steal affection and devotion that belongs to God. Entice away. Not to cause someone to hate God, just to be devoted to these other things.
- Divided love
 - Illustration: loving a second child just as much as the first (it's NOT like this)
 - Illustration: loving another man/woman just as much as the husband/wife we have at home (it's JUST like this)
 - We would (or should) call that adulterous
 - Israel
 - Joshua 24:14-15
 - 1 Kings 18:21
- So, what are some of the avenues of enticement? These things that are in the world that, if you love them, you are not loving the Father. Why? ***Because they are mistresses.***
 - Desires of the flesh
 - Sin nature, evil desires from within

- Our desires/needs can become so prominent and focused upon that they are lifted up and served. I become driven by devotion to my needs/desires, rather than devoted to the Lord, trusting Him to meet them.
 - The entitled attitude is one who is driven by the love of their own desires.
 - o *Don't so quickly think of someone else or another generation here. How do you react when your desires aren't met?*
- This often results in us meeting a legitimate need illegitimately.
- o Desires of the eyes
 - The eyes can be a great tool...but they can wander, if not reined in. They can aid in our discontentment. Seeing things that look so good, that we didn't even realize that we wanted before. "I want that."
 - Instead of lovin' my Jesus, I'm busy wishin' He'd just give me something more than He has.
 - "If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out" -Jesus, Matt 5
- o The pride of life
 - Arrogance in one's circumstances: possessions, accomplishments, or status
 - Parading these things and seeking after them for recognition
 - It also causes us to think that we know better than God. We may choose to "go with our gut" when making decisions; we may be more prone to accept the philosophies of the world (follow your heart; mother earth, worship of the created things)
- o These are all effective mistresses that entice and steal affection from and devotion to the Father
- Philippians 3:17-19
- The one who is in Christ will not be characterized by a love of these things. Our lives will not be dominated by the love of the world. We may certainly be enticed by them from time to time, finding that our love (affection and devotion) seems to be divided...but we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous! And if we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!

The world and its desires are passing away; but God and His will and those who love Him abides forever!