

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship
September 27, 2023 | "The Love God Hates" | 1 John 2:12-17

Why does God hate love for the world?

- 1) Love for the world is _____ with Christian maturity (2:12-14)

Stage #1 of Christian maturity – _____ Saints

Stage #2 of Christian maturity – _____ Saints

Stage #3 of Christian maturity – _____ Saints
- 2) Love for the world is _____ with loving God (2:15-16)

Love for the world # 1 – Lust of the _____

Love for the world #2 – Lust of the _____

Love for the world #3 – Pride of _____
- 3) Love for the world is _____ with God's will and eternal life (2:17)

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

1. Read 1 John 2:12-14. What stage of Christian maturity are you at? New saint? Young saint? Seasoned saint? What specific statements does John direct to your stage of maturity? Why does John divide his encouragements into three categories? How does John's command in verse 15 ("Do not love the world") relate with his encouragements in verses 12-14?
2. Read 1 John 2:15-17. What does John mean by "the world" in verse 15? How is 1 John 2:15 harmonized with John 3:16 and Matthew 22:39? What does love for the world look like? What are some ways that you are tempted to love the world? Why is this incompatible with loving God?
3. What are the "desires of the flesh?" How are those different from the "desires of the eyes?" What is "pride of life?" Is this an exhaustive list of human sinfulness or just a sample?
4. What are some "worldly" struggles in your life right now? Do these worldly struggles compete with your love for God? Do you love these things more than God? How is God helping you overcome these struggles? Do you have an increasing love for God and a decreasing love for the world? Why or why not?
5. How is the world "passing away along with its desires" (1 John 2:17)? What is promised to the person who does the will of God? What is the will of God for your life?

Advanced Question: Consider the way that Eve was tempted in Genesis 3:6. Do you think John was consciously or unconsciously alluding to this verse in 1 John 2:16? Why or Why not? What is significant about the prophecy concerning Eve and the Serpent (see Gen 3:15) and the theology of 1 John?