

Introduction

Vs15 "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

We need first to define "the world" - it is not "the world" as in John 3:16 (For God so loved the world...) but the world system of values, ideals, moral & ethical standards - including such things as attitudes to money, financial security and entertainment. Romans 12:1-2; (Vs2a "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.") Colossians 3:1-2; "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." See also John 15:19; 17:13-19; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Titus 2:11-13; 2 Timothy 4:10

You Can't Love God and the World. Vs 15

- Love for God is paramount. Deuteronomy 6:4-5; "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." In Mark 12:30 Jesus describes this as "The most important" commandment.
- Love for God is exclusive Matthew 6:19-24. (Vs20-21 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Vs24 "No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.")
- Love for the world is hatred of God. James 4:4 "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

The World is Exemplified by: Vs 16

The lust of the flesh - The Cravings of the Sinful Nature, craving for physical pleasure, or for sensual gratification, or passionate desires of the flesh

- Lust is a desire which overleaps all boundaries, like a drunken driver ignoring all the rules. It reflects undisciplined appetites.
- For the Christian it is part of the old life - Ephesians 2:1-3 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts."
- It is hostile to God - Romans 8:5-8 (Vs5 "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." Vs8 "Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God." See also Exodus 20:17
- The results are disastrous - Colossians 3:5-6 "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming." See also Galatians 5:13-21.

The lust of the eyes - a craving for everything we see. The love of beauty divorced from goodness; tendency to be captivated by outward show.

- Carries us away because our hearts are perverse Luke 11:33-36
- The starting point of sin. Matthew 5:27-29 (the words of Jesus) "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." Genesis 3:5-7; 2 Samuel 11:2-4
- "Be careful little eyes what you see." (Literature, Television, Movies, Internet)

The pride of life - empty pride in the worldly resources, pride in achievements and resources, or an assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things.

- Greeks used this word to describe an arrogant, boastful, haughty puff-ball. Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 21:4.
- It is the opposite of depending on God - 1 Peter 5:5-7 "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

The World is Transient Vs 17

- Vs17 "The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; 2 Corinthians 4:18 "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

He Who Does the Will of God, Lives Forever Vs 17

- Confession of sin resulting in sins forgiven, Obedience, Living as Jesus lived, Genuine love