

A Permanent Love (1 John 2:15-17)

Love looks like devotion and loyalty, time spent, thoughts fixed. It looks like investment and sacrifice. The Apostle John holds up two loves that he says are completely incompatible. His warning is clear: They don't mix. You can't have both. One is passing, one is permanent. One will lead you away from God, one will draw you near.

1. A passing love (1 John 2:15-17)

John is warning against devotion / loyalty to a system in opposition to God.

His concern: that they not set their hearts (affections) on the things of this world.

= adopt a worldview that ignores, forgets, dismisses – even uses God.

Don't fall in love with the fleeting pleasures / passing darkness (this evil age).

It is seductive and incredibly deceptive. The reason? It's a matter of the heart.

"What is an idol? It's anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give."

- *The desires (lusts) of the flesh* (cravings of sinful man)
Galatians 5:19-6:1
- *The desires (lusts) of the eyes.*
Lust is NEVER satisfied. Lust promises something it can never deliver: satisfaction.
- *The pride of life*

The Message: *"Wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important – has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him."*

Philippians 3:8-21 – The Apostle Paul wrote with tears in his eyes.

2. A permanent love (1 John 2:17)

Love for the world *must* be met with resistance.

- Focusing on God the Father's love for you personally.
- Moving from self-confidence to Christ-confidence.
- Asking the Spirit to empower you.

Romans 13:12-14; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2:11; Romans 12:2

Ask yourself: What / who is the object of my deepest love and affection?

You will "abide" = remain *forever*...in The Father's love.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read 1 John 2:15-17. Why is it important we receive this command in love?
2. What does John mean by "world"? What are some present-day examples of the values of the "the world" which John tells us not to love?
3. The two loves described are completely incompatible (don't mix) but many live like they do. Why is this so dangerous?
4. In 2:16 John lists three desires (lusts). Describe these desires. Why are they so insidious?
5. It was said, *"Where there's a growing knowledge of the love of God the Father, there will be a growing fight against sin and...puts within us a desire to break with the idols of this world."* First, what is an "idol"? Second, how does the love of the Father help us break away from idols? Do you have an example from your own life?
6. Love for the world must be met with resistance. What does resistance involve? Read Galatians 5:19-6:1; Romans 13:12-14; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2:11 and discuss what resistance looks like in each.
7. In 1 John 2:17 says *the world is passing away along with its desires*. Why is it important we remember this? What happens to the person who "does the will of God"? How do the truths of V17 help with the resistance?

Pray to receive this warning in love. Ask the Father for an increased experience of his love for you, to be moved from self-confidence to Christ-confidence and to be empowered by the Spirit for the resistance you're called to.