

The First Epistle of John

(Week 19 – 1John 2:15-17)

I. Review

A. The true believer is not to love the world

1. He is not saying don't love the people of the world!
 - a. We must impact them with the love and gospel of Jesus!
2. We are not to love:
 - a. The desire (*epithumia*) of the flesh
 - b. The desire (*epithumia*) of the eyes
 - c. The pride in possessions
3. Last time, we addressed the “*desires of the flesh*”
 - a. Greek word “*epithumia*” – a strong desire; an intense longing!
 - b. You know there is “*epithumia*” in your life when:
 - i. When you can't get your mind off of that something that compels you.

II. Do Not Love The World (part 2)

A. 1John 2:15-17, “*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. (16) For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*”

1. 1John 2:16, “*For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.*”
 - a. Now, let's deal with “*...the desires (epithumia) of the eyes*”
 - i. The desires of the flesh are fed by the desires of the eyes!
 - The eyes bring in the information that brings to life the desires of the flesh.
 - ii. In a spiritual sense, what the eyes delight to look upon reflects one's inward spiritual condition.
 - What a person enjoys looking at and watching reveals what is going on within them.
 - The more you look at it, the more it feeds the “*epithumia*” of the flesh which seeks to be pleased and pampered!
 - The eyes are that part of the body which communicates worldly desires to our souls, therefore, leading the body to immorality.
 - John tells the disciples not to look upon that which feeds the “*epithumia*” of the flesh, but rather, to look upon the things of God.
 - Here is how lust works:
 - You look at something and it forms an inner desire
 - That desire intensifies!
 - Now, you want to please it as it calls for you!

- Job made a covenant with his eyes (Job 31:1) because the eyes feed the lust of the flesh.
- David said in Psalm 101:3 (ESV), *“I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless”*
 - a. I have this verse on my TV set.
 - b. Good to have on your PC monitor as well!
- iii. The flesh is activated by what it sees.
 - Therefore, make a covenant with your eyes that you will look on the things that God wants in your life.
- b. Next, we see the *“...pride in possessions”*
 - i. Pride – Greek word *“alazoneia”*, which means, a braggart; boastful “self-confidence”
 - ii. When a person begins to get into a mind-set of something that he is not, he becomes a braggart.
 - iii. Some versions, like KJV, says “the pride of life”
 - The Greek word “life” is not “zoe”, which is the essence of life – Jesus is the “zoe” (John 14:6)
 - The Greek word used here is “bios”, which has to do with life’s physical manifestations (that is, what one does and what one has)
 - For Example: When a person says *“I have a good life,”* they are usually referring to their possessions (money, house, career, looks, etc.)
 - Here is an example of “pride of *‘bios’*”
 - a. Read Luke 12:13-21
 - i. Life is not defined by the abundance of possessions.
 - ii. The rich man was concerned about his possessions and took pride in his abundance but was poor before God!
 - b. **Question: How does one become “rich towards God?”**
 - i. The answer is found in 1Timothy 6:18-19

III. Conclusion

- A. The desires of the eyes and flesh and all possessions will perish
- B. But those who love the Father will abide in God forever!
- C. 2Peter 3:10-14 (ESV)

1. *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (11) Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, (12) waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! (13) But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (14) Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.”*