

LIVING IN THE LOVE OF THE FATHER FREE FROM THE WORLD

1 John 2:15-17 NKJV **SLIDES x 2**

*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 lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life—is not of [from out of] the Father but is [from out of] of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is **passing away** and the lust of it; but ~~he~~ **who does the will of God abides forever.***

WE MUST SAY, THE ACT OF 'NOT LOVING THE WORLD' (as our verses state) DOES NOT BRING YOU ETERNAL LIFE ANY MORE THAN THE ACT OF LOVING THE WORLD CAUSES US TO LOSE IT.

John is writing to believers who already have eternal life

Look at the context of the previous verses –

v12 – I write to you little children because **your sins are forgiven** for His name's sake

v13 – I write to you fathers because **you have known Him** who is from the beginning

– I write to you young men because **you have overcome the wicked one**

THESE VERSES ARE NOT INSTRUCTING US HOW TO BE SAVED OR STAY SAVED. JOHN IS TELLING US HOW WE SHOULD OPERATE BECAUSE WE ARE SAVED & HOW TO COME INTO ALL GOD'S BLESSING.

This is instruction as to how we should live after having already received forgiveness, knowing the Father and having already overcome.

ALSO NB: THE REFERENCE IN v17 ABOUT **DOING THE WILL OF GOD & LIVING FOREVER IS NOT TELLING US THAT – BY DOING GOD'S WILL WE WILL GAIN ETERNAL LIFE ... OR BY NOT DOING GOD'S WILL WE FORFEIT IT ...**

This same writer in John 3:16 tells us whoever **simply believes has eternal life.**

WE DO GOD'S WILL BECAUSE WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, NOT TO ATTAIN ETERNAL LIFE.

SALVATION IS THROUGH FAITH ALONE.

SO WHY IS JOHN WRITING THIS?

These verses are instructions to believers telling us **how to live free** as we journey through a corrupt and contaminated world and how we can gain much treasure at the end.

So Notice in our Text these Two Words - **'IN HIM'**

1 John 2:15 NKJV **SLIDE**

*... If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not **in him**.*

So when John speaks about people who do not have 'The Love of The Father in them', HE IS TALKING ABOUT THE NON-BELIEVER.

He cannot be talking about the Born-Again Believer ... because – **THE BELIEVER DOES HAVE THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IN HIM** –

Romans 5:5 BSB **SLIDE**

*... God has **poured out His love into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.*

So ... **the believer now has a choice** as to whether to live in the flesh and love the world ... or to live in the Spirit in the Love of The Father ...

NB: THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IN OUR TEXT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN OUR LOVE FOR THE FATHER ALONE ... BUT...

THE LOVE THAT BELONGS TO & COMES FROM THE FATHER ...

SLIDE THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IN OUR TEXT IS A NOUN. IT IS THE SPIRIT OF LOVE THAT HAS BEEN IMPARTED INTO US WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN.

THE BELIEVER CAN NOW LOVE ALL THE THINGS GOD LOVES

**CAN YOU SEE THE BLATANT CONTRAST OF TWO LOVES
HERE?**

(There are 3 Contrasts in these verses)

SLIDE 1ST CONTRAST

THE **LOVE FOR THE WORLD OR THE **LOVE** OF THE FATHER**

1 John 2:15 NKJV

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.

JOHN MAKES A STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN THE SPIRIT LED BELIEVER & THE CARNAL CHRISTIAN ...

HE SAYS, YOU'RE EITHER OPERATING OUT OF ...

- **THE CAMP OF THE FLESH WHERE YOU LOVE THE WORLD & ITS LUSTS = A CARNAL CHRISTIAN ... OR ...**
- **THE CAMP OF THE SPIRIT WHERE YOU LOVE THE THINGS THE FATHER LOVES = A SPIRIT-LED BELIEVER**

Allow me to paraphrase to get a clearer meaning of what John is saying ...

1 John 2:15 CLV (Chris Lambe Version)

Do not **love the world** or the things in the world **LIKE YOU USED TO. YOU KNOW** if anyone loves the world, **the Love of the Father** is not in him ... **BUT NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IN YOU, YOU CAN OPERATE FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN YOU ... LOVING THE THINGS GOD LOVES ...**

SO DON'T GO BACK TO THE WAY YOU WERE OR THE WAY THE WORLD IS BY OPERATING FROM THE FLESH & LOVING THE LUSTFUL THINGS OF THE WORLD ... LIVE IN THE LOVE OF GOD IN YOU AND LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES.

Ephesians 5:2 tells us TO WALK IN LOVE ...

Romans 6:4 tells us to WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE

Now as a believer with the love of The Father in you, you can walk in a greater love that will fill you with **pure joy and peace.**

HOW DO I DO THIS?

NOW ... WHEN WE BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THIS ... WE REALISE WE DO NOT HAVE TO TRY TO FIGHT THE FLESH WHICH LOVES THE WORLD & THE THINGS OF THE WORLD.

WE SIMPLY HAVE TO REST IN THE LOVE OF GOD WITHIN US AND DO THE THINGS WE LOVE

We also do not have *to try and make ourselves* live in or from the Love of God when we understand that this Love is in us.
In fact ... the more we strive to not love the world and love God the more we will miss the Love of God which is already in us.

Many Christians are striving to get what they've already been given.

**JUST REST IN THE LOVE OF GOD THAT THE SPIRIT HAS
ALREADY IMPARTED INTO YOU
AND YOU WILL BEGIN TO OPERATE OUT OF THAT LOVE OF THE
FATHER**

**THE PROBLEM IS: MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE NEVER BEEN
TAUGHT THIS
THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT *THEY MUST 'RENOUNCE' THE WORLD
AND EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD ...***

They try and renounce all worldly pleasures ... creating a serious ... intense ... unpleasant religious lifestyle where they *BECOME DRY, DULL & BORING WITHOUT PERSONALITY* and can never smile, laugh or dare enjoy themselves.

SLIDE *'I HAVE RENOUNCED ALL EARTHLY PLEASURES!'*

SCRIPTURE NEVER TELLS US TO 'DIE TO SELF'

We are told we are already dead to sin (Romans 6:11)

We are also told God has given us richly all things to enjoy
(I Timothy 6:17)

***NOTICE JOHN DOES NOT SAY, RENOUNCE THE WORLD ...
HE IS SAYING 'DO NOT LIVE IN THE LOVE OF THE WORLD'***

***IF YOU LIVE IN THE LOVE OF THE FATHER (already imparted into
you) YOU WILL SUBSEQUENTLY NOT LOVE THE WORLD-SYSTEM,
BUT YOU WILL CONSEQUENTLY LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES.***

WE WILL FIND OURSELVES LOVING WHAT GOD LOVES

WHAT IS 'THE WORLD'?

So, what is **the world** that John tells us we should not love?

NB: John does not say, Do not love **'The Earth'** or creation ...
But he tells us to NOT love **'The World'** – a very different thing ...

THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL & BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN THE EARTH WHICH WE CAN & SHOULD LOVE ...

There's the beauty of creation ... a breathtaking view ... a stunning sunset ... skies full of stars at night ...

THESE MAKE MY SPIRIT SING PRAISE TO GOD ...

See the poem 'TO A SNOWFLAKE', by Francis Thompson

AND THEN THERE ARE THE THINGS MAN CREATES ...

We can love and appreciate these also –

Good Music / Fine Art / Great literature / Grand Architecture / A Good Movie / Good Food (it's ok to love fine dining) / The blessing of Luxury ...

AND THEN THERE ARE OUR FAVOURITE THINGS ...

*Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woollen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favourite things*

*Cream-colored ponies and crisp apple strudels
Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles
Wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings
These are a few of my favourite things*

*Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes
Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes
Silver-white winters that melt into springs
These are a few of my favourite things (The Sound of Music)*

TESTIMONY

*When I was intensely giving all up for God ... my dear Minister friend showed me his 'Goldfish' and said, 'Do you like my Goldfish?' He then told me their names and different characteristics about them ... **I felt like a fish out of water** and I wondered, how can someone so devoted to God and His service love something so insignificant and unimportant as Goldfish. Then he said, **'Come and I'll show you my 'Spoon Collection'** ... I stood with him looking at silver spoons for about 15 minutes ... I was confounded but I never forgot how he loved these simple things ... **and I felt like God loved them also ...***

THESE ARE NOT THE THINGS OF THE WORLD THAT JOHN SAYS
NOT TO LOVE ...

JOHN SPEAKS ABOUT 'THE WORLD SYSTEM'

(1 John 5:19)

HE DESCRIBES IT AS FOLLOWS ...

1 John 2:16 NKJV

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life ...

- LUST OF THE FLESH = GRATIFICATION
- LUST OF THE EYES = ENVY ... GREED ... COVETOUSNESS
- THE VAINGLORY OF LIFE = POWER & POSTION ... PRAISE

It's a craving for self-satisfaction ... self-attainment ... the craving for more and more. It's the obsessive craving for riches ...

JOHN SAYS ... DO NOT LOVE THESE THINGS! (1 Timothy 6:10)

HOW DO WE STAY FREE AS WE WALK THROUGH THIS
WORLD-SYSTEM?

Jude 1:21 **SLIDE**

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

... And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patient waiting for Christ.

SLIDE 2ND CONTRAST ...

THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH OR THE WILL OF GOD

1 John 2:17 Christian Standard Bible

... The world with its lust is passing away ... but the one who does the will of God remains forever

SLIDE NOW YOU CAN CHOOSE TO NOT ONLY LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES ... BUT TO LOVE LIKE GOD LOVES.
WE CAN LOVE WITH UNSELFISH LOVE ...

1 Corinthians 13:5 – Love does not seek its own ...

*IN THE LOVE OF THE FATHER, WE LOVE TO DO HIS WILL ...
AND AS WE DO WHAT WE LOVE ... WE WILL DO THE WILL OF GOD.*

Psalm 40:8

I delight to do your will O my God ...

SLIDE WHAT ARE YOU PURSUING?

- Love that does Not Seek Its Own and does The Will of God ...
OR –
- Lust that seeks Everything It Wants ... and Loves The World

IS YOUR HEART-MIND FILLED WITH THE LOVE-DESIRE THAT COMES FROM THE WORLD OR THE LOVE-DESIRE THAT COMES FROM THE FATHER?

‘THE WORLD’ IN THIS VERSE IS SPEAKING ABOUT – THE WORLD SYSTEM ... A GODLESS SYSTEM ...

SLIDE 3RD CONTRAST

**FUTILE FAILURE OR ENDURING FRUIT
PASSING AWAY / ABIDING FOREVER**

1 John 2:17 NKJV

*And the world is **passing away** and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God **abides forever**.*

Forever = (aiōna) an age; perpetuity; OR A PERIOD OF TIME as in ...

*The contrast is **not between** ‘passing away’ and ‘lasting forever’
It is between **"passing away"** and **abiding till "the age" comes**.
Pulpit Commentary*

*The exact meaning here, therefore, is **"abideth unto the age,"** i.e. the coming of Christ's eternal kingdom.*

Augustine - Pulpit Commentary

*The Jews used **‘this age’** and **‘the age to come’** to distinguish the periods before and after the coming of the Messiah. Christians adopted the same phrases to indicate the periods before and after Christ's Second Coming ...*

BUT I ADD ... THIS IS NOT TELLING US THE PERSON WILL REMAIN TILL THE AGE TO COME ... BUT THE WORKS DONE FROM OUT OF THE LOVE OF THE FATHER WILL REMAIN UNTIL THE NEW AGE.

**SEE FOLLOWING HOW THIS VERSE IS WRITTEN IN GREEK ...
THERE IS NO 'PERSON' MENTIONED ... IT HAS BEEN ADDED.**

1 John 2:17 **SLIDE** Berean Literal Bible & Interlinear

**And the world is passing away and its desire; but the doing the will
of God abides to the age.**

Instead of inserting 'The Person' doing the will of God, why not
insert –

The doing of the will of God abides to the age [to come]

**IN OTHER WORDS ... WHAT YOU DO IN GOD'S WILL, WILL
REMAIN TILL THE NEW AGE & YOU WILL NOT LOSE YOUR
REWARD. YOU WILL NOT LOSE THE BENEFIT OF WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE ... IT WILL REMAIN TO THE AGE TO COME ...**

1 John 2:17 Chris Lambe Version

**LUSTING AFTER THINGS FOR YOURSELF WILL PASS AWAY ...
BUT WHAT YOU DO IN THE WILL OF GOD WILL REMAIN UNTIL
JESUS RETURNS & HANDS US HIS REWARDS.**

*Pulpit Commentary states concerning The Living for The Lusts of The
Flesh etc –*

*'Our capacity for enjoying it would none the less certainly come to an
end ... To love the world is to lose everything, including the thing loved.'*

**STAYING ALIVE TO THE LOVE OF THE FATHER & DOING HIS
WILL MAKES US THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH IN A WORLD
OF DARKNESS**

WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?

**ARE YOU LIVING FOR RICHES ... FAME & FORTUNE OR
TO DO GOD'S WILL OUT OF LOVE?**