

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*
- *Jesus, your Mercy*
- *#174, What Wondrous Love is This?*
- *#64, Praise Him! Praise Him!*

Announcements and Prayer requests

Communion & Fellowship meal - Today

Greeting

Message in the Word -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #6

The Infernal Trinity, the Unholy Trifecta

1 John 2:15-17

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

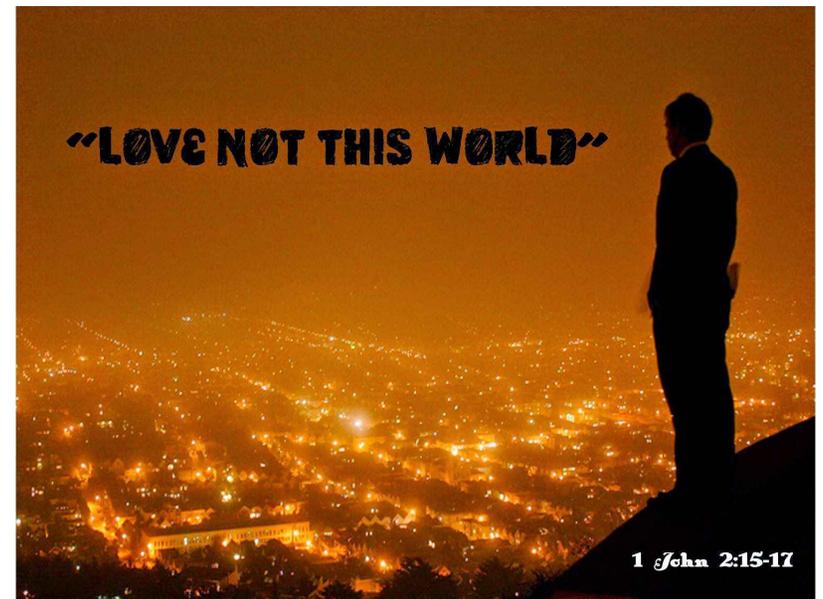
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- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #6

The Infernal Trinity, the Unholy Trifecta

1 John 2:15-17

- September 11th, 2022 -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #6

The Infernal Trinity, the Unholy Trifecta

1 John 2:15-17

John pivots now from encouragement of their assurance and spiritual standing, to stern warnings about an array of different enemies of their souls. Think of this as a guided tour through a museum of devices used to attack and disable Christians and whole churches. A Little Shop of Horrors. This is a well-worn passage for believers down through the ages, and for good reason... it is proven true again and again, its warnings and remedies.

V15, **Display item #1: Love of the world.** The sum of John's *positive* exhortation has been, "Love the Father" v5, "Love the Brethren" vv9-11. His *negative* exhortation begins here, "Love not the world."

The New Testament uses the term **world** (Gr. *kosmos*) in at least three ways: 1) *world* refers to planet **earth, the physical world** (e.g., Acts 17:24). 2) it refers to **humankind, the human world** (e.g., John 3:16), and 3) it refers to **human culture as influenced by Satan, the world system of values and ideals and actions.** And that is how John uses the term here.

This world, this cultural system of things is hostile to God and alien from His love, and therefore radically evil and doomed to perish.

Here we have a negative imperative action, a command for Christians, in the active voice. *It means don't start this and if you're doing it, stop!*

*If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
It is the nature of the nonbeliever to love the world.*

It is the nature of the nonbeliever to not have any love for the Father.

The nonbeliever can't stop loving the world, and he can't start loving the Father (except by divine grace, through the Son – by believing in the Father and the Son)

It is against the nature of the believer (the divine nature indwelling) to love the world.

It is against the nature of the believer (the divine nature indwelling) to not love the Father. But! We can temporarily and to varying degrees, stop loving the Father by loving the world and the things in it.

Love of the world is not to characterize or habitualize the life of the believer, and when we fall into it, we're in trouble and God who loves us must discipline us so that our love is restored to its proper object.

Example: 2 Tim 4:10 – Demas, *having loved* this present world. - this is aorist active, indicating he started it, is doing it, and can stop doing it.

V. 15 The love of the world ...	The love of the Father ...
V. 16 ... comes from the world.	comes from the Father.
V. 17 The world passes away.	The one who obeys God remains forever.

V16, **The Infernal Trinity of the world!** And there is an Unholy Trifecta. Both are at war with God and with our souls as His children.

-Lust of the *flesh*

-Lust of the *eyes*

-Boastful *pride* of life

The Unholy Trifecta, including the world:

THE CHRISTIAN'S THREE-FOLD ENEMY	
The Problem	The Solution
The World	Flee
(1 John 2:15-17)	(1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22)
Lust of the flesh	
Lust of the eyes	
Pride of life	
The flesh	Deny
(Rom. 7:18-24)	(Rom. 6:12-13; 8:13)
The devil	Resist
(1 Peter 5:8)	(1 Peter 5:9)

v17, *The world is passing away (middle voice), along with it's lusts.*

The right perspective on this world sees it for *what* it is, *who* is in charge of it's temporary machinations, for *how long* it is, and it's *inherent self-devouring, wasting and self-terminating nature.*

The right perspective is that loving, obeying and serving the eternal, Living God... doing His will, and enjoying His fellowship with one another, yields an enduring set of virtues that transform us and that will serve us well into eternity with our God and one another.

Serving a dying world is as stupid as one can get. Investing in a forever world of love and pleasure with God is wisdom forever.