



Study in the Book of I John

BIBLE STUDY 2

CHAPTER 2: LOVE NOT THE WORLD

SCRIPTURE LESSON: I JOHN 2:15-17

MAIN IDEA: One's love should be solely directed towards God.

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is filled with "do not" or "shall not" instructions. There are particular behaviors of which the Lord does not want believers to engage or participate. Read the following examples:

1. **Genesis 24:1** Abraham said to his servant, "that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites." (Genesis 24:2)
2. **Exodus 20** God said for the Israelites not: murder, commit adultery, or steal, etc.
3. **I Samuel 26:9** David told Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed."
4. **2 Cor 10:3** Paul, says "do not war after the flesh."

EXAMPLE: Do you remember your parents' "do not" instructions? Do not take the car keys when we are not home. Do not drink. Do not have sex. Do not take from other people.

The "do not" instructions serve as a prevention from getting into any unnecessary trouble or circumstances.

QUESTION: Which "do not" instruction do you wish you had adhered to?

LESSON IDEAS

Read I John 2:15-17

Let's study what "do not" John told the believers they should avoid.

- John is trying to help the church/believers to avoid sin because evil forces are at work against those who profess Jesus Christ.
- John knows that man cannot conform to the world, Romans 12:2.
- John wants the believers to discern what is worldliness and what is godliness, so they will make good decisions about their faith walk.



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(I) Love Not the World, vs. 15

John, in the gospels, uses the word “world” more than the other gospel writers. John makes a clear distinction between Jesus’ kingdom and the “world.” Jesus’ kingdom is about salvation. The world is full of darkness and sin and Jesus’ kingdom is about light. Jesus said in John 9:5, “While I am in the world, I am the Light of the World.”

“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”
John 1:10

QUESTION: In your personal life, have you distinguished between what is of the world and what is of God?

A. Do not love: the world nor things in the world, vs. 15

What is the worldliness that believers should not love?

1. Material things – Clothes, shoes, cars, TVs, cell phones, apps, internet, TV shows, money
2. Power – position, authority, control, status
3. Money – spending on material things

John’s advice to the church is not to be attached to worldly things. Christians must discern that things in the world are corrupt: societies, governments, and capitalism.

Read Matthew 6:19-21: What do you observe about worldliness in these verses:

The key to transforming from worldliness to being spiritual is to evaluate one’s heart, simply by asking, what is it that you love more than God?

B. The Love of the Father is key

Read James 4:4: How do you become an enemy of God?



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To love the Father, is to respect the authority of His words. The love of the Father ensured that we have salvation. The Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save the world. When you show love to the Father you honor Him for the salvation you received through Jesus' death on the cross.

(II) Deliverance from the Sins of the World, vs. 16

1. The Lust of the Flesh – feeling, touching and smelling that ignites urges and desires – Romans 13:14
2. The Lust of the Eyes – external observations that pull and strain on the lusts of the heart – Proverbs 27:20
3. The Boastful Pride of Life – self-sufficiency and boastful – James 4:16

All of these are not from the Father, but from the world.

(III) Do the Will of God, vs. 17

A. The world and its lusts are passing away.

We put too much time into using worldly things and put a lot of effort in trying to obtain them, but they are either passing or going to pass away.

B. The Will of God lives forever.

Material things can only be worn one at a time. You can only wear one pair of shoes at a time. You can only wear one watch at a time, one shirt, one coat, etc.

It is important for you to do the will of God.

Will of God defined: Wherever God is at work and where you join Him.

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EXERCISE:

Your Name: _____

God desires that you use your:

1. Time
2. Talents: _____
3. Abilities: _____
4. Spiritual Gifts: _____

Wherever God is at work, the believer is to use his/her time, talent, ability, and spiritual gifts for God's good, for His glory, and to advance His Kingdom. As you live out your destiny, you receive satisfaction and contentment that comes from living out your calling.