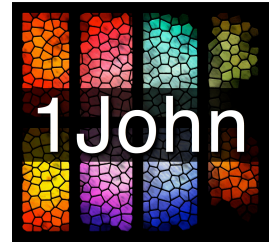


# 1 John

2: 12-17

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We find both indicative and imperative writing in the New Testament.

- Indicative: who we are as believers.
- Imperative: who we are becoming.

2: 12-14 is indicative writing. John helps his readers take a “breather” as his letter is challenging and convicting. He encourages them in reminding them that they *are* in Christ, they are victorious and they do have a future.

In 2: 15-17 John is writing using the imperative.

## **V 15 What is the “the world”?**

- John (in this passage) does not mean the globe, or generally the people of the world.
- He is referring to “society that worships false gods, and is founded on false values”.
- John says this “world” or way of living is anti-Jesus.

## **V16 What “the world offers”**

- The whole life worship of physical pleasure.
- Cravings for all things that dominate the senses. Life driven by the senses.
- \*John is not saying we shouldn’t enjoy life or appreciate beauty. Just that we shouldn’t be centered around it.
- The gospel says we don’t need things, experiences or position to be satisfied in life. We need Jesus.

## **John heard all this from Jesus first (John 15: 18-19)**

Living for the world and living for Jesus (light and darkness) is robbing the believers of their joy, and John wants them to know full, deep joy (1 John 1:2).

David said, *“You satisfy me more than the richest feast”*

## **V17a The World is Fading**

- There is no future in things, bodily pleasure or position. They are fleeting, they are temporal. They may not be inherently wrong if they find appropriate position in our lives (not central) but they’re not what life’s all about.

## **V17a Please God and Live Forever**

- This is where the true joy lies. Life with God, which will go on for longer than our temporal pleasure seeking, material hoarding and position jockeying.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### *From Sunday:*

- We all have a love affair with the world. Where are you in the love affair?
- What has your attention?
- What do you think a lot about?
- Where do you spend your time?
- Where do you spend your resources?
- Where do you spend your energy?

#### *Further Questions:*

- Do you think we might need to “de-tox” from living in the world and worshipping what it worships?
- How do we learn to find the true joy Jesus offers in life with him? How do you step out of love with the world and into love with Jesus? What can we practically do?
- If the world offers much in terms of instant gratification, and it’s values stand in opposition to Jesus, do you think we might expect a different experience of joy and satisfaction in Jesus than we previous experienced in life in the world?

### **Resources:**

*Freedom of Simplicity*, Richard Foster

(a book on living in simplicity and joy with Jesus. A great practical read that’s deeply encouraging but also challenging. Highly recommended for Life Groups willing to go deeper into the subject matter of this sermon).