

FAQ: “God Hates This Love”

1 John Lesson 33

Date: August 27, 2025

1. What does it mean to 'love the world' according to the Apostle John, and why is it problematic?

According to John, loving the world refers to affection for an invisible, spiritual system of evil that stands in opposition to God. This system is orchestrated by Satan, called “the prince of the power of the air” and “the wicked one” who controls the world.

This “world” does not mean the physical creation of God (nature, humanity), which God loves and which reflects His glory. Instead, it encompasses:

- The lust of the flesh
- The lust of the eyes
- The pride of life

These are not of the Father but are inherent to the evil system (1 John 2:16, NKJV). Loving this system is problematic because it proves a lack of God’s love within a person. True Christians may stumble, but they do not habitually love the world.

2. How does the concept of 'the world' differ from God's creation and humanity?

- God’s Creation: The physical world—the beauty of nature, the universe, and human life—reflects God’s glory and wisdom. Christians are encouraged to appreciate this created world as an act of worship to the Creator.
- Humanity: John 3:16 (NKJV) says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” This refers to people, not the evil system.
- The Evil System: The “world” to be avoided is an invisible, Satan-run system that corrupts individuals and opposes God.

3. What are the 'tests' John provides to distinguish true Christians from those who 'love the world'?

- Love of the World: If someone loves the world, “the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15, NKJV).
- Language of God: True Christians speak the Word of God, not worldly philosophy.
- Overcoming the World: Those “born of God” overcome the world through faith in Jesus (1 John 5:4).
- No Friendship with the World: “Friendship with the world is enmity with God” (James 4:4).

- Pattern of Obedience and Love: Christians show consistent obedience and love for others.
- Correct Christology: True spirits confess that “Jesus Christ has come in the flesh” (1 John 4:2).

4. What is Gnosticism, and how does it relate to 'loving the world'?

Pre-Gnosticism was a philosophy in John’s time that claimed secret knowledge (gnosis) of God without moral change. Its adherents claimed insight but continued to live in worldliness. Their actions showed the love of God was not in them. Gnosticism was amoral, permitting immersion in worldly systems while claiming spirituality.

5. How is a Christian's relationship with the world characterized after coming to faith in Christ?

- They are world overcomers through faith in Christ.
- They move from loving the world to loving the Lord.
- They are “chosen out of the world” (John 15:19).
- Paul wrote: “The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14, NKJV).
- Christians no longer walk according to the world’s course but live in separation from it.

6. What are the characteristics of the evil system of the world controlled by Satan?

- It is invisible and operates on disorder and chaos, opposing God’s creation.
- It is anti-Christ, anti-God, and passing away.
- 1 John 5:19 (NKJV): “The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”
- It is the source of lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life.
- Satan, as “prince of this world,” uses demons, spirits, and false prophets to advance deception.

7. What is the role of spiritual discernment and knowledge of God's Word in resisting the world's system?

- Believers are warned: “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1, NKJV).
- Without God’s Word, believers—especially spiritual “children”—are easily deceived.
- True teachers confess that “Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.”
- Sound Christology and Scripture knowledge are essential to recognize deception and remain in truth.

8. How does the ongoing spiritual battle against the world influence a Christian's life and outlook?

- Christians are called to be militant, prepared for spiritual battle.
- They must avoid the temptations of the world: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life.
- The world is passing away, but God remains sovereign.
- 1 John 4:4 (NKJV): “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

- This truth gives believers strength, obedience, faith, and hope, enabling them to love others and draw them toward God.

Greek Term

- κόσμος (cosmos) — KOS-mos

Meaning: “world” or “order.” In 1 John, this refers not to God’s creation or people, but to the fallen, evil system opposed to God’s truth.