

# Briefing Document: “God Hates This Love”

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## 1 John Lesson 33

Date: August 27, 2025

This briefing summarizes key themes and ideas from the sermon, focusing on the concept of “the world” and its implications for Christian faith and living.

### I. Defining “The World” (Cosmos)

The sermon emphasizes that the world (Greek: cosmos) in the biblical context of 1 John does not refer to:

- God’s Created Order / Physical World

“We’re not talking about the physical world—nature, sunsets, flowers, mountains, or streams, the beauty of God’s creation.”

God’s creation reflects His glory and should be appreciated.

“We should love the created world for what it is: a reflection of the glory of God.”

- Humanity / People

“We’re not talking about people, because we know God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” (John 3:16, NKJV)

God loved the people of the world enough to give His Son.

Instead, the world refers to:

- An Invisible, Spiritual System of Evil

“What you’re not supposed to love is invisible—it’s a spiritual system of evil.”

This system is characterized by chaos and disorder, contrary to God’s intended order (cosmos in its original sense).

- Satan’s System

“Run by Satan, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:2, NKJV)

- Anti-Christ Spirit: A system “against Christ.” The spirit of the antichrist was already present in John’s time and continues today.

- Source of Lust and Pride

“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 the Father but is of the world.” (1 John 2:16, NKJV)

- Under the Sway of the Wicked One

“The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.” (1 John 5:19, NKJV)

## II. God's Hatred of "Worldly Love"

- God "hates the love of the world" because it opposes His perfect love.
- Love of the world and love of the Lord are mutually exclusive: "You cannot serve two masters." (Matthew 6:24, NKJV)
- Loving the world proves "the love of the Father is not in you." (1 John 2:15, NKJV)
- Christians may occasionally stumble, but habitual love for the world reveals a lack of genuine faith.
- John warns against false philosophies (such as early Gnosticism) that claimed special knowledge without moral change.

## III. Overcoming the World

- Born of God: "Whoever is born of God overcomes the world." (1 John 5:4, NKJV)
- Victory Through Faith: Belief in Jesus as the Son of God gives victory over the world.
- Separation from the World:
  - Jesus: "Because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." (John 15:19, NKJV)
  - Paul: "The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14, NKJV)
- Past vs. Present State: Believers once walked according to the world, but no longer live under its control (Ephesians 2:1–3, NKJV).
- Friendship with the World = Enmity with God: "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4, NKJV)

## IV. Marks of a True Christian

True Christians are identified by:

- A right view of Christ, sin, and need for forgiveness.
- A manifest pattern of obedience (not perfection, but growth).
- A pattern of love for others, reflecting the love of God.
- Absence of love for the world.

## V. Spiritual Warfare and Discernment

- Battle with Satan and Demons: Satan actively seeks to destroy, using his system of demons, powers, and authorities.
- Testing the Spirits: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1, NKJV)
- Discerning Truth through Christology: True teachers confess that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh." (1 John 4:2, NKJV)
- Importance of God's Word: Without God's Word, believers are easily manipulated, like immature "little children" in the faith.
- The Holy Spirit Within: "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4, NKJV)
- Militant Faith: Christians must prepare for battle, keeping their lives separated from the world.

### Closing Reflection

“Who do you love? What do you love? Only you can answer that question.”

### Greek Term

- κόσμος (cosmos) — KOS-mos

Meaning: “world” or “order.” In the NT, it often refers not to God’s creation or people, but to the fallen, evil system opposed to God’s will and truth.