

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

May 2016

True Christianity

INTRODUCTION

Why do you think “the world” is so attractive, even to believers? Matt 13:22; 26:41; Js 1:13-14

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 John 2:15-17

*Note: The word “world” (kosmos) could be translated into that which is alienated from God and opposed to Him. It could also be called the “pagan culture” or the way of life governed by Satan. “One should note that John is not advocating an ontological dualism or a dualistic cosmology in which **the creation** is evil. He is advocating a temporal, ethical dualism in which there is a constant battle going on between the realms of darkness and light.²⁴² That this dualism is temporal and not eternal is made clear by the transient nature of the world and its lust in v. 17.”¹*

1. Why is John *not* telling us to hate the physical world? Gen 1:31; Ps 19:1-6
2. Why is he *not* telling us to hate the world of humanity? Jn 3:16
3. How do people show their love for the world? Vs 15 Jn 3:20
4. In verse 16 John describes what three broad categories of sin? Gen 3:1-7; Lk 4:1-13
5. Why are believers *not* supposed to love the world? Vv 15-17 1 Jn 4:4;
6. How does the world (and its values) compare to those who do the will of God? Vs 17
7. What happens to people that build their life around worldly enticements? 1 Cor 7:31
8. Which enticement is the biggest challenge to your spiritual growth right now?
9. Paul was willing to face martyrdom for his faith. 2 Tim 4:6-8 Demas worked alongside Paul for many years. If Demas was unwilling to pay the same price (2 Tim 4:10), how can we fault him? What did Demas give up? Jas 4:4
10. What is meant by the phrase, “He is so heavenly minded that he is no worldly good?” Js 2:14-17

APPLICATION

How can you make sure your life (& career) is based on Him rather than the world? John 7:17

The correct application of love springs from the fact that the believer has a singular loyalty and commitment to the Father. Verse 15 clearly states that one cannot love the world and love God at the same time. The absolute nature of this statement is striking and compels careful and serious reflection. The stakes are high. Because the Father’s kingdom is at war with the kingdom of this world, the two will never coexist peacefully. To pledge allegiance to one side is to declare opposition to the other.^{244 2}

²⁴² Smalley, *1, 2, 3 John*, 80–81.

^{1 2}Akin, D. L. (2001). *Vol. 38: 1, 2, 3 John* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (108). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

²⁴⁴ Kysar, *1, 2, 3 John*, 55; Smalley, *1, 2, 3 John*, 82. Cf. Smalley, *1, 2, 3 John*, 83; Brown, *Epistles of John*, 306; Culpepper, *1, 2, 3 John*, 38.