

February 15-16th, 2020 Sermon
“Competing Loves”

1 John 2:15-17

Pastor Brandon Sales



1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- 1) Pastor Brandon noted that, when John wrote “*Do not love the world...*” he wasn’t talking about creation or other people. Instead, John was referring to world systems, philosophies, principles, and actions that are opposed to God and life in his kingdom. What are some examples of “*the things of the world*” based on that understanding?
- 2) Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. How do these verses from the Apostle Paul speak to our approach to “*the things of the world*”?
- 3) Throughout this weekend’s message we considered (1) the desires of the flesh, (2) the desires of the eyes and, (3) the pride of life. We were reminded how the enemy uses those three core temptations – found in each of us – to derail our pursuit of deep, loving relationship and obedience to Jesus. How do these three differ and which do you think is the biggest challenge?
- 4) Read James 1:13-17. How do the three desires that John points out relate to James’ warning about where our temptation comes from? What are some verses from elsewhere in the New Testament that bring hope into this?
- 5) John ends this passage by saying, “*And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever*”. How do Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:19-21 and 7:24-27 speak to this?
- 6) Are there things that you need to confess and repent from – *desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes, or the pride of life* – that distract you from life in the Kingdom of God? Spend time silently or together praying about these as you close.