



“The Love God Hates”

1 John 2

Small Group Plan

John’s gospel says, “God so loved the world” (3:16), but his first letter says, “Do not love the world” (2:15). So, which is it and what is “the world?”

- ✓ Is it the planet we live on?
- ✓ Is it the people who live on the planet?
- ✓ Is it the values of the people who live on the planet?

It could be any one of the three, and depending on our answer, we will love the world or not. So, be careful.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- If “the world” represents the values of our planet, how do you explain its attraction?
- What is the darkest side of the world you have ever seen?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

DON’T LOVE THE WORLD **— Because Of Who You Are —**

1 John 2:12-14

¹² I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³ I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- Do you think these are three groups of people or three stages of growth? Explain.
- What are the tactics of “the evil one” and why do they too often work?
- This is a very encouraging part of the letter. Why does John give it now?
- What is the source of our victory over “the evil one” and how does it work?

DON'T LOVE THE WORLD
— Because Of What The World Is —

1 John 2:15-16

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.

- What does it mean to “love the world” — what does it look like in a person’s life?
- What are “cravings” and what happens when we “love” them?
- What is “lust” and what happens when we “love” it?
- What is “boasting” and what happens when we “love” it?

DON'T LOVE THE WORLD
— Because Of The End Of The Story —

1 John 2:17

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

- How does the *temporariness* of the world affect its desirability?
- Since everyone knows that death is inevitable and that we will leave everything behind, why do so many still hoard the world’s wealth and pursue the world’s values?
- How can the endlessness of God’s values redefine the meaning of our wealth and possessions?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Which stage of growth (new-born, developing, mature) are you in and what are your responsibilities as you live through this stage?
- What part of the “world” pulls at you the most?
- How are you defending against it?
- What would help you to resist?
- Close by asking God for the ongoing strength to overcome the three foes of verse 16.