



SPIRITUAL GROWTH AT THE PEAK

SERIES: LESSONS ON THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US

Lesson #5: “Do Not Love the World”

1 John 2:15-17

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What is one thing in your life you just don't think you could live without?

Transition: We often forget that the saying is true, “When it's over, all the toys go back in the box.”

The Bottom Line: Love gives eternal life, this world offers death.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

Question: What is the difference between liking something a lot and loving it?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

After writing some very heartfelt and encouraging words, now John sounds a warning from God in the form of a direct command.

1. What are we commanded NOT to love?

The word John uses for “love” for this world and the things in it is the Greek concept of AGAPE love. That means the love that causes me to be willing to sacrifice for, lay down my life for.)

2. Does that mean we can't enjoy this life and the fun things the world offers that don't conflict with God's word?

- 🌐 What are some of the good things of this world that people fall in an unhealthy love with?



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- ⑥ How do Christians move from liking and enjoying something that is rewarding, to sliding over that line where it becomes an unhealthy love?

3. What does God say about anyone who has that sacrificial love for this life?

Read Matthew 6:24

Money is actually not the proper translation of this word. It is the word MAMŌNAS, mammon. Used of all material goods, wealth, possessions and what is important to know is that this word was used only in the derogatory sense. It includes money but also all material things that make up this world. The best explanation of Jesus’ words today would be, “You cannot love both God and stuff that controls you! An obsessive devotion to stuff gets between you and your God.”

4. What are specific three things mentioned that are not from God, but are in fact from this world?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: **Read James 3:13-18 at each table. Discuss how James sheds more light on what John is teaching us today.**

5. Let’s look more closely at the world’s offerings:

*The first 2 categories, cravings and lust, are sinful **desires**. These are internal and hidden sins. The third category, boasting of what he has and does, is sinful **behavior**. This is external and revealed or evident sin. The first two may be private. The last one relates to a person surrounded by people.*

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- a. Cravings of sinful man:
 - b. Lust of sinful man's eyes:
 - c. Sinful man's boasting of what he has and does:
6. What happens to all these things that men and women fall in love with?
- ⑥ How can you help a fellow Christian who is obsessed with building an empire and status?
7. What happens to the man or woman who does the will of God?
- ⑥ What are some of the current dangers this world hangs before us to gain our attention and take our eyes off Christ?



Going Deeper/Homework:

NOTE: TEACHERS

Stress working on the memory verse and taking the challenge to study the passage for God to begin giving insights for next week's Lesson!

Memory Verse: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the Greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13).

Next Week's Scripture: 1 John 2:18-27