

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:15-17

Lesson 11

**FIRST DAY:** Review and Overview

1. Review I John 2:12-14, We might title this passage: *Assurance of Salvation Evidenced by Spiritual Growth*. In what way does John help the readers recognize they are growing?
  - a. Are there discernible areas of growth in your life since you've come to Christ? Share one.
    - 1) How does this contribute to your assurance that you are born again?
    - 2) Consider II Peter 3:18 and relate how Joyful Life Bible studies are helping you grow.
2. We are now assured that if *we keep His commandments, walk as He walked, are loving our brothers and sister, and growing spiritually*, we have evidence of salvation and a basis for our assurance. We also know that there is forgiveness for our failures when we're *walking in the light*. Now, John turns the reader's attention to a serious problem prevalent in every generation of believers. He issues a strong command and a stern warning concerning it. Note and mark this paragraph division, I John 2:15-17, and summarize the contents in one sentence.
3. *World* in these verses refers to the *world (kosmos)* system which is hostile and in opposition to God and ruled by Satan. From the garden of Eden until now all people have been subjected to this seduction of the *world* to draw their hearts away from God. Understanding the *world* (referred to in these verses), its influence, its corrupt character, and its future, should cause every believer to want to abandon it. Ask the Lord to give you a fresh revelation of the *world* from His perspective through your study of these verses. Then, ask Him to work in your heart a desire to forsake it and live wholly in His Kingdom. Write your prayer here.

*Dead to the world and its applause,  
To all the customs, fashions, laws, of those who hate the humbling cross.*

*Amy Carmichael*

**SECOND DAY:**

Read I John 2:15

1. Print the first two phrases of I John 2:15 in large block letters,
  - a. How does Galatians 1:4 help you understand this command?
  - b. Briefly define what you think *love the world* means.
  - c. What should we be setting our *affection* on? Colossians 3:2
  
2. *Do not love or cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in Him.* (I John 2:15 AMP) If we *love the world*, this system which is alienated from God and organized around the principles of its ruler, satan, and is opposed to Christ's work on earth, what does I John 2: 15b reveal about us?
  - a. **Circle** the word *love* in this verse and **underline** or **highlight** the word *world*.
  - b. Note the word of in I John 2:15b (κιν). Most Bible scholars believe this should be translated for as in the Amplified version above. Make a note of this in your Bible.
  - c. Why do you think love for God and love for the world are incompatible?
  
3. *Love not the world* does not refer to the physical, material world created by God for us to appreciate and enjoy. It does not mean we are not to love the world of mankind, people, for whom Jesus died (John 3:16). In your own words define the word *world* that we are not to love.
  
4. Carefully ponder I John 2:15. Examine your life in the light of it. Don't try to escape or avoid this command. We're dealing with eternal truth here. How does this verse speak to you today?

*Stop loving this evil world  
and all that it offers you,  
for when you love these things  
you show you do not really love God.*

-I John 2:15 TLB

**THIRD DAY:**

Read I John 2:16

- John now specifies *the things* (verse 15) that are in the world that we are not to love (set our hearts on). List these here from I John 2:16 in the left-hand column. Use other versions of these phrases to fill in the right-hand column or use the Living Bible paraphrase in italics below the chart.

I John 2:16 KJV	I John 2:16 other versions
a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.

*... for all these worldly things,  
 these evil desires → the craze for sex,  
 the ambition to buy everything that appeals to you,  
 and the pride that comes from wealth and importance –  
 these are not from God.  
 They are from this evil world itself.*  
 -I John 2:16 TLB

- Compare I John 2:16 with Genesis 3:6 by filling out the following chart:

I John 2:16	Genesis 3:6
a. lust of the flesh	a.
b. lust of the eyes	b.
c. pride of life	c.

- Notice the brevity of time between Eve’s temptation and her sin. How does that speak to you?

**Challenge:** Parallel *these things* (I John 2:16) with the devil’s temptation of Christ using one of these references: Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

- How did Jesus confront these temptations?

- Read this paraphrase of I John 2:16 with the purpose of expanding your understanding. *These are the evil things in the world: wanting things to please our sinful selves, wanting the sinful things we see, being too proud of the things we have. But none of these things come from the Father. All of them come from the world.* (I John 2:16 THE EVERYDAY BIBLE) Observe how the world sets its bait to ensnare us. Cite practical examples of how the world does this.

4. What do these verses reveal about the world:
  - a. John 17:14,15
  - b. Romans 12:2
  - c. Titus 2:1,2
  - d. James 4:4
  
5. Think of the ways the *world* tries to program our minds today. *Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within...* (Romans 12:2a Phillips). Why must our minds be *remolded* or *renewed*?
  - a. In what practical ways can we *renew* our minds?

*On Loving the World*  
 ...your whole aim is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.  
 You are like an unfaithful wife who loves her husband's enemies.  
 Don't you realize that making friends with God's enemies -  
 the evil pleasures of this world - makes you an enemy of God?  
 I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy the evil pleasures of this world,  
 you cannot also be a friend of God

- James 4:3,4 TLB

**FOURTH DAY:** Read I John 2:16

1. Satan's methods of deception and seduction are not new. View this from Genesis 3:1-5. Especially notice the phrase "hath God said". Trace his method, his lies, his promise. What do you see?
  - a. Do you ever experience the enemy trying to plant doubt in your heart about God's Word, God's goodness, and God's will? Why does he do this? (See John 10:10a) Think this through and answer in your own words.
  
  - b. With Eve, the serpent focused her attention on what was forbidden rather than the paradise she had. What do you wish Eve had done?
  
  - c. List a few of the consequences of Eve's choice.

2. When a Christian chooses the world's way in opposition to God's revealed will, what can be some of the consequences? Answer through the following scriptures:
  - a. Psalm 38:1
    - 1) Scan this Psalm for a view of chastening. What do you see?
  - b. Mark 4:19
    - 1) Note the three reasons the Word is choked out and a person is unfruitful.
  - c. Galatians 6:7, 8
  - d. How are these consequences a deterrent to deliberate, willful sin?
3. If we're ensnared by any of *these things in the world*, what is the key to deliverance? Answer from the following:
  - a. Psalm 38:18
  - b. Isaiah 55:7
  - c. Romans 8:13
  - d. Romans 13:14
  - e. I John 1:9
4. What safeguards do you surround yourself within and without on a daily basis to keep you from becoming ensnared by the world?

*LOVE GOD, HATE SIN, Reckon the old man (sin nature) dead.*

*LOVE GOD, HATE SIN, And by the Spirit be led.*

*- Romans 6:11 perspective*

**FIFTH DAY:** Read I John 2:17

1. Record the two powerful reasons for not loving this *world* given in this passage:
  - a. I John 2:15b
  - b. I John 2:17a
  - c. Selah - pause and meditate on these truths in relationship to your life, -Share one of your thoughts on this.

2. Write I John 2:17 in your own words.
  
3. Consider the phrase *the world passeth away* in the context of the following verse: *...every contact with the world must be as light as possible, for the present scheme of things is rapidly passing away. That is why you should be as free from worldly entanglements as possible.* (I Corinthians 7:31 Phillips) What does this verse say to you?
  - a. Notice the word **worldly** used in this verse. Using a dictionary define it and also the word **worldling**.
  
  - b. How should the knowledge of the transient, impermanent quality of this world and its lusts:
    - 1) alter your perspective of it
    - 2) affect your contact with it
  
  - (a.) Share a way to keep yourself aware of I John 2: 17a on a daily basis.
  
4. Read the following scriptures, then write a brief biography of Demas.
  - a. Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24 (A.D. 64)
  
  - b. II Timothy 4:10a (A.D. 66)
  
  - c. How is II Timothy 3:(1-3) 4 an explanation of Demas' behavior?
    - 1) In conjunction with I John 2:15-17, what warning is there here for you?
  
5. Only one kind of person *will (live) abide forever*. Who does I John 2:17 say this is? Print your answer.
  - a. Do not rush through this I John 2:17 warning in order to complete your lesson. STOP. Ask the Lord to reveal to you what this means in your life right now. Share any insights, if not too personal, you receive on *doing the will of God*.
  
6. The choice between the lust of the world and the will of God confronts all Christians. In what way does Romans 13:11-14 speak to you about your choice?

*Keep close, keep close,  
If you are close you will be keen (alert),  
Your heart will be set on things that abide.  
You will not be attracted by the  
world that crucified Him  
-Amy Carmichael*

**SIXTH DAY:** Review I John 2: 15 17

1. What does it mean to love the *world*?

Challenge: Using a Bible Dictionary or commentary define *world* (Greek: kosmos) as used in I John 2:15-17.

2. Why are we not to love the *world*? Use what you learn about the *world* in I John 2:15-17 for your answer.

- a. Why can't we love the *world* and the *Father*?

3. The church has tried for many generations to set up standards that would keep Christians separate from this *present evil world* (Galatians 1:4). Often the result has been indifference, circumvention, rejection, or rebellion. The reason is that man's rules do not change the HEART. If we *love the world* we're going to keep company with it. Explain as you would to someone who *loves the world* and *the things in the world* yet claims to be a Christian what the Bible teaches about this. (Use I John 2:15-17 and Matthew 6:24 to help you with this.)

- a. Why can't we love the *world* and the *Father*?

- 1) John 14:30

- 2) Ephesians 2:2

- 3) Ephesians 6:12

- b. Recognizing that anything we love *more than* God is an idol how does I John 5:21 relate to I John 2:15-17?

4. What did Jesus pray for His disciples and all Christians in John 17:15?
  - a. Explain this saying concerning Christians: *We are in the world but not of the world.*
5. In response to I John 2:15-17, what will you do when you feel an overwhelming urge to indulge in this *world's* passions, pleasure's, or pride?
  - a. How does Proverbs 4:23 speak to you about this?

Optional: To what degree do you think TV, R-rated movies, videos, and secular novels contribute to the *lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes* and mold values and attitudes towards sin?

6. Write what Titus 2:(11) 12, 13, (14) teaches about living in this present world. (age) that will help you do the *will of God*. Personalize this.
7. Think today of the promise of I John 2:17b. What it means to *abide forever (with the Lord)*. I Thessalonians 4:17c Weigh this in light of the world's temporal, vain charms. Complete this lesson by reading Colossians 3:1-4 in the light of I John 2:17b. What can you do to cooperate with the Lord in the application of these scriptures to your life?

*Forbid it Lord that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me  
most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.  
- Isaac Watts*