

Theme: We must resist this fallen world, remembering that authentic, eternal life and joy is found in God, not in this fading evil order of illusion that is passing away.

I. "I Thought That Was What Marines Did"

- A. Young Marine in Iraq; arm blown off; leaders all killed
- B. Propped up; led resistance; saved unit
- C. General - "Corporal, how did you do that?"
- D. "I thought that was what Marines did - I did not know I had a choice!"
- E. Last time we saw our authentic inheritance in Christ
- F. Today - how we live out of that - how Christian's live
- G. Last week - all perfect tense - God's past actions
- H. This week - present tense - how we live now

II. Do Not Love the World

- A. John's command - Do not love the world???
Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15
 - 1. John says to not love world or anything it
 - 2. If we love the world, Father's love not in us
 - 3. But I thought God loved the world??
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16
 - 4. How do we reconcile this? What does John mean?

- B. The meaning of "love" - same as always in John
Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15
 - 1. Some think love has 2 different meanings
 - 2. Here it would refer to a selfish love
 - 3. But agape in John never has this idea
 - 4. Love has the same meaning in both places
- C. The meaning of world - fallen, evil order opposed to God
Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15
 - 1. The word cosmos has many different meaning in NT
 - a. The created order, the earth and universe
He was in the world, and though the world was made through him... John 1:10
 - b. The people who inhabit earth
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2
 - c. The fallen, evil order opposed to God
They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 1 John 4:5
for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 1 John 5:4
 - 2. John is referring to fallen, evil order opposed to God
 - a. This is by far most common meaning in John

- b. How he defines world - lust, pride, not from God

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. 1 John 2:15–16

- 3. We can not love the world and love the Father
- 4. We love the people trapped in the world system - but hate the system

III. Why We Must Not Love the Fallen World Order

- A. Nature of the world - opposed to God

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... comes not from the Father but from the world.** 1 John 2:15–16

- 1. The world and the Father are diametrically opposed
- 2. The world stands in opposition to our Father - so we must oppose it, not embrace it

- B. Nature of world: lust, pride - fulfillment apart from God

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. 1 John 2:16

- 1. Note three (again!) temptations
- 2. Literally lust of flesh, lust of eyes, pride of life
 - a. Lust of flesh - our sinful cravings
 - b. Lust of eyes - sinful desires for what we see
 - c. Pride of life - boasting in what we have (apart from

God)

- 1. Other time bios used 1 John 3:17 - possessions
- 2. NIV captures idea - boasting in what we have and do
- 3. Unholy desire for what we do not have, unholy pride in what we do have
- 4. Key idea - thinking we can find fulfillment, meaning, life apart from God
- 5. Probably an allusion to Genesis 3, Luke 4
 - a. Adam & Eve failed when tempted by lust and pride
 - b. Jesus faced these down as 2nd Adam - and won!

- C. Nature of the world - temporary illusion

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:17

- 1. The world promises life, joy, fulfillment forever
- 2. But world can not deliver - and it is only temporary
- 3. But if we resist the world - we find eternal joy
- 4. This world is a fading illusion, but our faith provides authentic, eternal life and joy

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we know the fallen world is hostile to God & church?
 - 1. Do not be deceived - the world hates God
 - 2. Do not be deceived - the world wants to destroy us
 - 3. Do not be deceived - there is no compromise here
 - 4. The world will always try to deceive and seduce us

5. Do I understand this basic hostility in life?
6. Do I live like I understand it - or that I expect the world to be essentially friendly to God?

B. Do we give into the temptation of the world?

1. Do I believe I can find fulfillment in something other than God?
 - a. What do I think would fulfill me if I could just get it?
 1. This is huge today - whole economy built on this!
 2. Our culture has turned lust into a business!
 3. This is an idolatrous trap - it never fulfills!
 - b. What do I have that I think is mine (pride of life)?
 1. This is huge in America - self made man trap
 2. We find our identity in what we have & what we did
 3. But Christ is our identity - not what we possess
 4. Any other view is idol worship
2. Do I think this world's rewards are lasting?
 - a. Even if the world delivered - it would not last
 - b. This world is a fading world - passing away
 - c. This worlds pleasures and riches are fleeting
 - d. This is a world of temporary illusions - a mirage

C. Communion - The Table of Authentic, Eternal Joy

1. This Table points us to authentic joy, life, fulfillment
2. This Table points us to Jesus - where it all is found

3. These joys are not temporary and fading
4. These joys are lasting and growing
5. Come to the Table of Authentic, Eternal joy

Authentic Faith In A World of Illusion

1 John 2:15-17

May 31, 2015

Communion

Jude 1:24-25

Teaching keywords: temptation; 2nd Adam; culture; holiness; idolatry and false gods; sanctification

24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24–25

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. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15–17