

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Do Not Love This
Passing World

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 John 2:12-17

Theme: Instead of loving this passing world, do the will of God.

Introduction: The world is a temporal reality and is a great source of temptation and trial for the church. The world's values are against God's values, and the world's influence can ensnare us if we fail to be vigilant. John gives us solid encouragement:

1. Assurance is foundational (12-13)

John writes to the entire church, calling us "little children", signaling the Lord's care and love for his people. We are assured of our salvation in Jesus and of the facts of our status before God. This assurance is our firm foundation for resisting the world's values and lies.

2. Senior believers anchor the church (13-14)

John speaks to the "fathers" of the church, a title addressed to the senior believers, those who have wisdom through their experience of the faithfulness and goodness of God. The church does well to acknowledge, honor, and look to senior saints as foundational participants in fellowship. We need their wisdom and their participation, more than ever.

3. Exemplary young believers (13-14)

John addresses the "young men" of the church, showing his care for the young people of the church. The young adults and teens of the church are critical to the life and health of a local body, and their zeal alongside their willingness to love and serve make the church to thrive.

4. Rethink your engagement (15-16)

John warns us to not love the world, or the "things of the world". We must not put our hope and joy in that which is passing. To love the world means that we find treasures here in passing things. Much rather, believers should recognize the snares of our sinful nature in regards to living "in the world, but not of the world."

5. Think longterm (17)

Christians have this promise from the Lord, as we forsake worldliness and pursue godliness and doing God's will, that we will abide forever. The hope of eternal life comes to those who are embedded in Christ.

Questions:

1. What is your understanding of what it means to be worldly and to love the world?
2. Why is it a primary concern that Christians learn to reject this world's values?
3. Where are you likely tempted in worldly values and ideas?
4. How might you better engage fellowship with senior saints with young believers?