

# Overcoming a Love for this World

**Text:** 1 John 2:15-17

South Orlando Baptist Church

**Topics:** Worldliness, Eternal Values, God's Will

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**Series: Bold Assurance**

Dr. David Crowe

What does John mean by his word "world" in this passage? This is not a reference to the physical, material world but the invisible spiritual system of evil dominated by Satan and all that it offers in opposition to God, His Word, and His people (cf. 5:19; John 12:31; 1 Cor. 1:21; 2 Cor. 4:4; James 4:4; 2 Pet. 1:4). (MacArthur Study bible)

To overcome a love for this world...

1. Study what a love for this world truly \_\_\_\_\_. (1 John 2:15-16)
  - A. "The lust of the flesh" - The intent of these words is not a focus on sexual sins only but rather a complete desire of the body to indulge in all sinful behavior. It is a total pursuit of sin.
  - B. "The lust of the eyes" - This is an acceptance of the sin of covetousness. The desire for things and to "keep up with the Joneses."
  - C. "The pride in one's lifestyle" - Here the desire is not so much to keep up with the Joneses but to pass them in possessions and life achievement.
  - D. How obsessed are you with the things of this world?
  
2. See the \_\_\_\_\_ of earthly things. (1 John 2:17a)
  - A. All three things that John mentions in verse 16 will come to nothing in eternity.
  - B. Matthew 6:19-21 (HCSB) "Don't collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
  - C. Are you spending your life for the temporal or for the eternal?
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ out the will of God. (1 John 2:17b)
  - A. Romans 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
  - B. Do you spend more of your time in pursuit of the will of God or in worldly pursuits?

## ***Application Questions***

- 1. Which of these three most clearly motivates the people you know and live near: (1) the drive to meet their physical needs, (2) the drive to get things, or (3) the drive to succeed?**
- 2. What restrictions should we place on our affections? (2:15)**
- 3. What should believers not love? Why? (2:15)**
- 4. What is the result of loving the world? (2:15)**
- 5. Why did John tell us not to love the world? (2:15-17)**
- 6. What are the things of the world? (2:16)**
- 7. How did John categorize the things in the world? (2:16)**
- 8. What passes away? (2:17)**
- 9. Who lives forever? (2:17)**
- 10. How do we love the world and the things in it?**
- 11. What things in the world are you tempted to love?**
- 12. What would you categorize as "the lust of the flesh"?**
- 13. What would you categorize as "the lust of the eyes"?**
- 14. What would you categorize as "pride in one's lifestyle"?**
- 15. \*Why are the things and values of the world so enticing to us?**
- 16. What worldly things or values do we substitute for God?**
- 17. What does it mean to do the will of God?**
- 18. How can we guard against adopting the values of the world?**
- 19. From what worldly thing or value do you need to turn in order to pursue your relationship with God?**
- 20. What specific steps will you take in order to find satisfaction in your relationship with God rather than in the things of the world?**
- 21. How will you do the will of God today?**