

Sermon Supplement from February 11

Redirecting Our Affections | 1 John 2:15-17

Warm Up

- Can you think of a time when someone you admire spiritually encouraged or challenged you? Explain.

Dig In

Read 1 John 2:15-17 (read several times)

- In your own words, define “the world” as used in these verses.
- What does “love” mean in this passage?
- What are subtle ways the love of the world can begin to creep into a Christian’s heart and life?
- In your own words, explain the three areas of misdirected affections in verse 16. What kinds of things might fit into each category?
- Think of several areas such as money, sex or power: contrast the world’s values in these areas with the values espoused in God’s Word.
- Respond to this statement: *Surface issues like money, sex, and power are only symptoms of a much deeper issue. “The underlying problem is radical autonomy of the human spirit that insists on being its own God.”*
- How does the book of Ecclesiastes speak to the truth of 1 John 2:17? (See especially Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 and 12:13-14.)
- John Piper calls the world and its desires, “the trifling fog”. What do you think he means by that? How do the world’s desires sometimes act like a fog in our lives?
- Respond to this statement: *“The human heart will never relinquish its love affair with the world until it finds something greater to love than the world. The only way to dispossess the heart of an old love is by the expulsive power of a new one.”*

Wrap Up

- Think of 1-2 “worldly affections” that you currently struggle with. Confess them to the Lord and to another person.
- What are some specific steps you might take to redirect your affections?

Next Week’s Sermon: 1 John 2:18-23

- Read the text several times in multiple translations.
- Read the text in the context of the verses around it.
- Read study Bible notes or a commentary on the passage.
- Write down what you think is the big idea of the passage.
- Write down a few personal applications.