



Sermon

• Controlled By Love •

1 John 2:15-17

Sermon Outline

1. The Command (15a)
2. The Control (15b)
3. Two Considerations (16-17)

Reflection Questions

1. What is your initial reaction to John's (stark) command in v15? How does it strike you on first hearing or reading? What informs that reaction?
2. There are several ways to understand the word 'world'? Why is it so important to know the author's intended meaning for a particular passage? In this case (2.15), what helps us know what 'world' John is talking about? Consider John 3.16, 1 John 2.2 & 1 John 5.19.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5.14-15. How does this passage relate to 1 John 2.15-17.



4. Remember the three tests that John presents in the letter by which to evaluate the false teachers and be encouraged about the genuineness of their own faith:

- 1-**doctrinal** (what do they believe about God, especially Christ?),
- 2-**moral** (are they obeying God's commands?) and
- 3-**relational** (are they loving the brethren?). How does 2.15-17 fit in with these three 'tests'?

5. What can happen to us if we are not willing to be critical about what we love?

6. Why is it important for us to consider the source and the end of the world's loves?

7. What are things in the world that you love? What are you particularly drawn to and tempted by? Why?

8. What can you do about that? (Consider the earlier portions of John's letter. For example 1.8–2.2 & 2.12-14.)

9. Why is this really an encouraging passage?