

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

Loving the world or loving Christ

1 John 2:15–27

“See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.” 1 John 2:24

Days 1 and 2: Read 1 John 2:15–17.

1. By “the world” John does not mean creation itself, but more particularly the fallen world of sinful humanity in its state of rebellion against the Creator. What two reasons does John give for his command not to love the world?
vss. 15–16:

vs. 17:
2. List the three phrases John uses to characterize love of the world. (vs. 16) Give some examples of how these things look in our culture today.
3. How do you find yourself prone to loving the world?
4. Where do you see worldly influence in your church?
5. How do Jesus’ words, “...take heart! I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33) encourage you?
6. How does John describe the one who “lives forever”? (vs. 17) What does this look like? (Jn. 6:29; 1 Thess. 4:3–7; Rom. 12:1–3)

Day 3: Read 1 John 2:18–27.

7. This passage contains some harsh language. But by what tender form of address does John again show his concern for his readers? (vs. 18)
8. By his use of the phrase “the last hour” (vs. 18) John clearly does not mean the very end of the world. What do you think he does mean? You may want to consider the following passages: Acts 2:16ff; 1 Cor. 10:11; 1 Pet. 1:20; 2 Pet. 3:3–9.
9. Who are the “antichrists” against whom John is warning his readers? (vss. 18–19, 26)

10. What is the error that these antichrists are propagating? (vs. 22; cf. 2 Jn. 7) What fundamental truth does this error undermine? (Jn. 1:14, 18; 10:30; 1 Jn. 1:1–3) What is the ruinous effect of this error? (vs. 22–23; cf. Jn. 14:6)

Day 4: Read 1 John 2:15–27.

11. In this passage John warns of two dangers: the world and antichrists. But what words of encouragement and exhortation does he give his readers in verses 20, 24, 27?
12. In the Old Testament, priests and kings received a special anointing. Jesus himself came as the Christ, or Messiah, which means “the Anointed” (cf. Acts 10:38). What kind of anointing have we as Jesus’ followers received? (2 Cor. 1:21–22; Eph. 1:13)
13. How does this anointing teach us and enable us to know the truth, as John writes in verses 20 and 27? (Jn. 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:10b–13)
14. John’s statement, “you do not need anyone to teach you” (vs. 27), is aimed at false teachers who thought they had special knowledge that other Christians lacked. What does the Bible say about the role of teaching among believers? (See, e.g., Mt. 28:19–20; Rom. 12:6–7; 2 Tim. 2:2, 24.)

Day 5: Read 1 John 2:18–27.

15. “What you have heard from the beginning” (vs. 24) refers to the message about Jesus that John’s readers have heard and believed. What does it mean to let what you have heard remain in you? How do we do this? How does this aid us in guarding against error and worldliness? (cf. Heb. 2:1; Ps. 1)
16. Studying and applying “what you have heard” are not lone wolf activities—the pronouns here are plural. How are members of the body to help each other? (Eph. 4:11–16; Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16; 4:2–4)
17. The verb “remain” (or “abide” or “dwell”) appears several times in this passage. John exhorts believers to “remain in him”—in contrast to the heretical “antichrists,” who did not remain in the

community of believers (vs. 19). Read John 15:1–11. What does Jesus teach us about remaining in him?