

**1, 2, 3 JOHN**  
**THIS IS THE LIFE**  
**SMALL GROUP STUDY #4**  
**NEVER GIVE YOUR HEARTS TO THE WORLD**  
**1John 2:15-17**

**Ice Breaker:** What does the world around us tell us we should treasure? What does God tell us we should treasure? What is the difference?

**INTRO:** Some things just don't go together no matter how hard you try to blend them. In 1 John 1, John told us light and darkness don't mix. In the same way, John now tells us loving the world and loving God don't mix. John says you are either consumed with loving God or consumed with loving the world; there is no middle ground.

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

*Do not love **the world or anything in the world**. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world—**the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does**—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

Q: What is "the world" John speaks of in verse 15?

- He does not mean the creation of God (Ps 24:1) or the people in the world (John 3:16).
- He means the *world-system*, which is based on men's desires.

Q: John says loving the world keeps love for God out of your heart. James 4:4 says friendship with the world is hatred towards God. Why can't love for God and love for the world, exist in you at the same time?

- Both are Masters... you can't serve both! (Matt. 6:24)

Q: In verse 16, John gives us three sources of sin... all come from the world-system. What are these sources of sin and how would you describe them?

- *Barclay defines them as:*
  1. *"The cravings of sinful man"- life dominated by the senses.*
  2. *"The lust of the eyes"- always wanting more and/or the desire to be constantly entertained.*
  3. *"The boasting of what he has and does"- ambition and seeking approval.*

Q: Can you think of a sin that doesn't come from one of the three sources?

- What does this tell you about the world-system around you?

Q: Boredom seems to be the worst sin in the world-system. The world system we live in stresses the value of entertainment. Is there anything wrong with pursuing entertainment?

- Could be... if you are giving your heart to entertainment.
- There is a difference between appreciating a good meal, a movie, a video game, a sporting event... and giving your heart to these things.
- For some people, the pursuit of entertainment has become as big a threat to spiritual fruitfulness as the obsession with money.

Q: Is there a difference between entrainment and recreation? Explain.

- Recreation “re-creates” the body, mind and spirit.
- Entertainment is something that amuses, pleases, or diverts the attention.
- In our culture, people are often obsessed with entertainment. (Addiction to video games is fast becoming one of the most often cited reasons for divorce.)

Q: How might you know if you are in love with the world, or beginning to fall in love?

Q: Is there a difference between weakness and rebellion? If so, what is it?

- How might weakness and rebellion apply to those who sin and those who love the world?

Q: Based on what you have learned so far, what really *does* lead to joy and fulfillment?

---

APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. Which of the three sources of sin cause you the most problems?
2. In what ways have you looked to the world-system to find peace and fulfillment? What have been the results?
3. Loving the world can choke spiritual fruit in your life (Mark 4:19). What does your spiritual fruit tell you about how much you love this world?