



## The Love God Hates

1 John 2:12-17

**Big Idea for the Series:** Ten weeks of biblical truth designed to show the evidence the Apostle John points to revealing true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life.”

**The Bottom Line:** Fix your eyes upon Jesus, and the things of this world will grow strangely dim.

### Review:

In this 10-week series, Be Real, we’re discussing the biblical truth from the Apostle John that points to true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).” So many people struggle and lack confident assurance in their faith.

In week one, It’s Real, we talked about how men search for meaning, purpose, happiness, and joy in so many things but never really find it unless they are in Christ. And ... being in Christ means belonging to him and living in constant fellowship with him.

In week two, we learned “walking in the light” is to be honest with God, ourselves, and others. As we grow in a more honest and sincere discipleship, our sinful nature is continually brought out of darkness into light, a place where we not only find forgiveness-but healing.

Last week, we connected “walking in the light” with genuine godly love “agape.” Anything short of agape is not the love or light God wants us to walk in.

First John was written in Greek, and we learned last week how confusing love can be in English. Then, we discussed the seven words the Greeks use to better express what they are feeling and communicating when it comes to love.

- Agape – The word for God’s love toward man. A Christian’s love for other Christians, and God’s love for His Church.
- Storge – An unconditional, family love.
- Philia – The love expressed in a deep, intimate friendship. It’s not quite as profound or divine as agape.
- Pragma – A committed, companionate love.
- Ludus – A playful, flirtatious love.
- Eros – A romantic, passionate love.
- Philautia – Self-love, proud, arrogant, boastful love of self.

## **Introduction:**

Now that we know the right love to pursue, the highest love, agape, John turns his attention and warns us about a wrong kind of love, a love God hates.

## **Tension**

This love God hates draws you into sin. It tempts you to all kinds of evil and wickedness.

Have you ever wondered why you're so tempted to do the wrong thing? (See Romans 7:19)

And more importantly, what can we do about it?

## **Truth**

1 John 2:15a, "Do not love [agape] the **world** or anything in the **world**."

In this context, "the world" is Satan's system for opposing the work of Christ on earth. It's the very opposite of what is godly and holy. The world is not the natural habitat for a Jesus follower.

For the believer to live in the world (out of his natural habitat), he must have the right equipment to breathe (spiritually): The Holy Spirit, Prayer, The Word of God, Christian Fellowship, The Word of Your Testimony.

1 John 2:15a, "Do not **love [agape]** the world or anything in the world."

AGAPE! Do not agape the world or anything in the world – referring to the world.

So the obvious question that arises is ...

If we can't agape the world, can we have any of the other kinds of love for the world?

Can we ... Storge, Philia, Pragma, Ludus, or Eros the world? (See John 1:12; James 4:4; Proverbs 3:5; Matthew 22:37)

1 John 2:15, "Do not **love [agape]** the world or anything in the world. If anyone **loves** [agape] the world, the **love** [agape] of the Father is not in him."

1 John 2:16, "For **everything** in the world– ..."

Even a good thing may rob a believer of his enjoyment of God's love and his desire to do God's will.

John pointed out three things the "world" uses to ensnare Christians.

1 John 2:16, "For everything in the world–the **cravings** of sinful man [sarx-the flesh], ..."

This includes anything that appeals to man's fallen nature, including God-given desires, such as the following: hunger, thirst, weariness, and sex. There is nothing wrong with eating, drinking, sleeping, or begetting children or enjoying your spouse.

BUT...when the flesh / sinful nature controls them, they become sinful "lusts."

The world appeals to normal, God-given, appetites and tempts us to satisfy them in forbidden ways. The “lusts of the flesh” are an ugly list: (See Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 7:18; 13:14; John 6:63; Philippians 3:3)

1 John 2:16, “For everything in the world—the **cravings** of sinful man, the **lust** of his eyes ...”

The appetite of the eyes - The eyes are a gateway into the mind. Basically, the lust of the eyes is the desire to possess what we see or to have those things with visual appeal.

1 John 2:16, “For everything in the world—the **cravings** of sinful man, the **lust** of his eyes and the **boasting** of what he has and does— ...”

Pride, the deadliest of all sin, the root of all evil, the beginning of the fall, the chief of the seven deadly sins!

1 John 2:16, “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.”

1 John 2:16, “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.**”

1 John 2:17, “The world and its desires **pass away**, but the man who does the will of God **lives forever.**”

### **Conclusion:**

The lust of your heart, the lust of your eyes, and your pride are the perfect storm to lead you to “agape” love the world. The only way to walk in the light, to live for what never passes away but lives forever, is to agape God, to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, boasting not in yourself but in Him.

### **Application**

Fix your eyes upon Jesus, and the things of this world will grow strangely dim.

Romans 13:14 – Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ ...

### **Next Steps:**

- Memorize 1 John 2:15
- Agape God
- Fix Your Eyes on Jesus
- Get Biblical Counseling – [southbaychurchli.org/counseling](http://southbaychurchli.org/counseling)