

1 John 2:15-17

1. _____ the call to _____ : Do not love the world. (v. 15)

2. _____ the importance _____. (v. 15-17)

a. Living for _____ and seeking pleasure _____ is committing _____ . (vs 15)

b. _____ that is from the world _____ from the Father. (v. 16)

c. The only _____ worth having are those that will _____. (v. 17)

3. Allow the Lord to _____.

 - a. _____ yourself, understanding that you are changed by _____.
 - b. _____ yourselves up in the _____.
 - c. _____ in the spirit and make _____ for the flesh.
 - d. Take _____ steps to _____ from the world.

Questions to think through as you consider your desires

Worldliness begins with our desires, and it manifests itself in our outward behaviors. These questions are designed to help you discern what is in your heart as you look at your outward actions. They should help you think about where you are and aid you in making God-pleasing choices. They address only a few issues of worldliness, but my prayer is that God will use them to draw your heart to Him as you recognize desires in your life that are in need of His transformation. Praise Him that He is the God who is making all things new!

General Questions

What am I passionate about? What preoccupies my mind when my time and thoughts are my own?

Is there something in the world that I am presently attracted to or pursuing? How can I seek accountability and bring this area into the light?

Is my life characterized by an increasing love for the Savior? Am I consistently more passionate for the Lord?

Desires of the Flesh: Questions concerning media and entertainment (television, movies, the internet, social media, music, books, phone usage, etc)

If I limited my media choices to what was actually beneficial (as opposed to just permissible), would my viewing habits change? How?

Does anyone know what I watch, read, listen to, or what I view online, how much I do it, and the specific areas in which I am tempted? Whom can I seek biblical accountability from?

Does the media I view and listen to lead me to love the Savior more, or does it cause my affection for Christ to diminish?

In the last week, how much time have I spent on the spiritual disciplines, building relationships, or serving my local church compared to time spent consuming media?

After investing my time watching, listening to, or viewing media, will I look back on it as time well spent?

Am I seeking comfort, relief, or escape from something I should be facing when I am consuming media?

Am I viewing media because I am bored or lazy? What does this reveal about my heart?

What motivates me to create and maintain a blog or social media presence? Am I attempting to impress others? Am I being prideful, slanderous, deceitful, or self-righteous?

Is the media I am viewing pure, holy, and pleasing to God (Philippians 4:8-9) and will it encourage me in my pursuit of holiness?

Desires of the Eyes: Questions concerning material possessions

Am I giving regularly and generously of my money and time to the church and to those in need?

Am I using stuff to make myself feel important? If so, what does this demonstrate about my heart?

Am I believing the lie that stuff makes me happy or secure? Do I need certain “stuff” in order to feel good about myself? Do I always need the newest or best stuff?

Am I satisfied with what I have or am I discontent with what God has given me?

Does my stuff and how I use it demonstrate that my life and all I have belongs to God?

Is my life characterized by gratefulness toward God and others?

Do I find myself comparing my stuff to other people’s stuff?

Pride of Life: Questions concerning self and relationships

Am I more excited about my own accomplishments, career, hobbies, or leisure time than about the glorious story of redemption? How might my perspective on these things change if I viewed them as part of God’s program in the world?

Am I joyful to see others get praise and recognition or am I secretly jealous?

What am I motivated by in my relationships? Am I loving others unselfishly or am I expecting something in return for my efforts?

Am I contentious in my relationships? Do I stir up division and dissension? Am I trying to make myself appear in a favorable light while making others appear in an unfavorable light?

Is what other’s think about me more important to me than what God thinks about me? Am I trying to project a certain image of myself that is either untrue or partially true?

Am I relying completely on the Lord or am I trying to do life in my own strength?

Am I comparing myself to God and his standards or am I comparing myself to other people?

Many of the questions listed here are taken or adapted from the book *Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World* compiled by CJ Mahaney, pages 57-59, 180-187

DAY 1

Pray: Psalm 11:7 “For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.”
Begin your study time today in prayer; praise God for His righteous character. Ask Him to reveal to you areas in your life that are unrighteous, and to grow righteousness within you.

Memorize: 1 John 3:2. Write the entire verse on the lines below:

Study: Read 1 John 2:28 - 29

As we move into this next section, John turns to a tone of instruction as he exhorts and urges believers to live as children of God. He wanted them understand that a true child of God will live quite differently from those false believers who, it was plain were not of them (2:19). Just as children will resemble their parents, believers in Christ will have a family resemblance as well.

1. Take note of the pronouns *he* and *him* in verses 28 and 29. Who is John speaking of in these verses?

2. In verse 28 what is John’s first exhortation (or instruction) us? _____

3. From our past weeks’ studies we have learned that to “abide in Him” means that we will have unbroken, enduring fellowship with Christ. What are some areas in your life that hinder you from abiding in Him? _____

4. Continuing in verse 28, what reason does John give for abiding in Christ? _____

5. Abiding in Christ – having continuous fellowship with Him – is directly related to having confidence in our relationship with Him. According to Hebrews 4:16 what will we gain as we have confidence when we approach God in prayer? _____

6. Moving on to 1 John 2:29, who is righteous? (for clarification refer to 2:1) _____
7. Because we know this, how will those who are truly God's children respond? _____

8. The word translated "practice" in the English Standard Version is translated from the Greek word *poieo* which means to make or produce. With this definition in mind, what do you believe God would have you do as you practice righteousness? _____

9. In Psalm 15 we read about the person who is practicing righteousness in fellowship with God. Record some of the qualities that God loves to see in those who will dwell with Him. _____

10. How do abiding in Christ and practicing righteousness work together? _____

11. Prayerfully consider words, thoughts, habits, actions that would cause you to "shrink from Him in shame". Write a responsive prayer to God, confessing any sin God is showing you that hinders your fellowship with Him. _____

DAY 2

Pray: Psalm 36:5-10 “Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O Lord. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.” Begin your time in the word today by praising God for His love, righteousness, and faithfulness. Ask Him to prepare your heart to hear and be changed by His word today.

Memorize: Read 1 John 3:2 now. Begin to memorize the first section of this verse by filling in the blanks – from memory if possible.

Beloved, we are _____ now, and what _____ has not yet _____; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Study: For context read 1 John 3:1 - 3. Today we will spend time focusing on verse 1 as we consider God’s love for us.

1. According to the first phrase of 1 John 3:1, what is the sign of the Father’s love for us? _____

2. God doesn’t simply call us His children, according to Romans 5:8 and John 3:16 how does He show the depth of His love for us? _____

In Ephesians 2:8 we read that we have been “saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is a gift of God!” Our great God, our wonderful Heavenly Father shows His love for us by giving us the gift of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus. While we were still in sin, rejecting Him completely, He calls us to become His children!

3. Spend a few moments reflecting on the wonder of being called a child of God! This demonstration of God's love for us is truly a blessing beyond comprehension. Record any thoughts you may have as you consider your place as a daughter of the King!! _____

4. Read the second sentence of 1 John 3:1 again. What is an outcome of being God's child? _____

5. Read John 1:9-13. Record what John tells us here about the relationship between the world and Jesus. _____

6. What evidence do you see that the "world doesn't know us?" _____

7. In what ways has your life been impacted by the way the world views Christ and His followers? If not at all, can you think of any reasons why not? _____

In closing today, let's refocus on God's love for us and our place in His family. Our desire to know Him more, to study His word, and to be obedient to Him are an expression of gratitude for all He does for us – not a means of gaining His love.

8. How does God's great love for you impact the way you go through each day? In what ways does the knowledge of His love for you change the way you interact with people in your life? In what ways does His love change the way you respond to situations you face? _____

9. Prayer: Reflect on these lyrics* as you close in prayer today:

How deep the Father's love for us - How vast beyond all measure

That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away

As wounds which mar the chosen one, bring many sons to glory

Praise God for His love, for the gift of Jesus, for your place in His family. Ask Him to grow within you a steady assurance of His love – so that you will never doubt Him. Ask Him to give you the desire to respond to Him from a heart of love and obedience.

**How Deep the Father's Love for Us by Stuart Townend*

DAY 3

Pray: Ephesians 4:4-7 "But God being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Begin today by thanking God again for His love that gives you a place in His family, and a future home with him in heavenly places! Ask Him to help you see Christ in a fresh way today as you seek to be more like Him.

Memorize: Either read out loud or repeat from memory the first section of 1 John 3:2. Read the second part of the verse and fill in the blanks below.

But we know that _____ we shall be
_____, because we shall _____
_____ as _____.

Study: Read 1 John 3:1 – 3 again. Today our study will be focusing upon verses 2 and 3.

1. In the first words of 1 John 3:2 what does John remind us again? _____

2. What does this verse tell us about our present state and our future state? _____

3. What will happen at Christ's appearing according to 1 John 3:2? _____

4. Why will this happen? _____

5. 1 Corinthians 13:12 explains this bit differently. How will we be different in the future according to this verse? _____

6. In Revelation 1:13-16 and 19:11-16 John records two visions of Christ. These descriptions of Jesus are not the man who John lived with on earth! What are some of the words John uses to describe Christ as He really is? _____

7. How is this description different than how you "see" Christ now? _____

8. In what ways would your life change today if you begin to see Jesus as He truly is? _____

9. Read 1 John 3:3. What will God's children do in response to "seeing Him as He is?" _____

10. We will respond in this way because of our "hope". What are we to hope in? _____

11. The hope or "confident expectation" that we will see Jesus as He is should cause us to desire purity in our lives. What are some things that keep you from pursuing that type of purity? _____

12. Today we have learned that God’s children have the assurance that they will someday be like Christ completely. Until that day comes, what can you do right now to purify yourself as you desire to be more like Him? _____

13. Prayer: Psalm 51:10 (NIV): Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Close in prayer today by thanking God for the assurance He gives us of our future. Ask Him to help you see Him as He is and to begin even now to change you. Ask Him to show you areas of your life that He would like to purify.

DAY 4

Pray: Praise God for the gift of Jesus who came to save us from our sins. Ask God to show you any habitual sin in your life that He wants you to gain victory over.

Memorize: Say (or read) 1 John 3:2. Fill in the blanks below.

Beloved, _____
now, and what _____ has _____
_____ ; but we know that _____
_____ we shall _____,
because we shall _____ as _____.

Study: Read 1 John 3:4-7

1. In 1 John 3:4 what do we learn about those who “practice sin”? _____

It may be helpful to know that the words “practices sin” in this verse are translated from a present tense, active Greek verb that speaks of habitual, on-going action. For the most accurate translation of these verses, refer to the English Standard Version or New American Standard.

2. In this verse John calls sin “lawlessness”. Throughout scripture God is the lawgiver. In Isaiah 33:22 we read “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king, He will save us.”
When we continue in a sinful practice, who is most offended? _____

3. Because he was writing to believers in Christ we could assume that John was not referring to the Old Testament Law. In John 13:34-35 what is the new law that Jesus gives His disciples? _____

4. What are some ways that habitual sin in our lives can violate this new Law that Jesus gave? _____

5. Read 1 John 3:5 - 6. What do you learn about Christ in these verses? _____

6. Verse 6 tells us that “no one who abides in him (Christ) keeps on sinning.” Here John is contrasting the one who abides in Christ with a person living a life of continual sin. In what ways can a believer continue in sin while abiding in Christ? _____

7. According to verse 6, what do we know about the person who lives in a continual pattern of sin? _____

8. How can abiding in – having unbroken, enduring fellowship with – Christ help us gain victory over sin habits? _____

9. In John 15: 9 – 13 Jesus tells us what it looks like to abide in Him and His love. What can we learn from these verses as we follow His righteous example? _____

10. In 1 John 3:7 John warns his readers not to be deceived by the false teachers who were saying that it didn’t matter how the followers of Christ lived after their salvation. According to this verse, what is a sign of a true child of God? _____

11. Who is the ultimate example of righteousness? _____

12. Close your study time today by writing a responsive prayer confessing any areas of habitual sin that God is revealing to you. Ask Him to show you areas of your life that are keeping you from abiding in fellowship with Him. Praise Him for revealing true righteousness through the life of Christ. _____

DAY 5

Pray: Begin today by reading Philippians 1:9-11. Make these words your own personal prayer today.

“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Memorize: Write out 1 John 3:2 from memory if possible.

Study: Read 1 John 3:4-10. In these verses John teaches us about sin, the work of Christ, and our response to Him by using a repeating pattern. We will compare these two sets of verses today.

1. What do we learn about sin?

Verse 4: _____

Verse 8: _____

2. What do we learn about Christ?

Verse 5: _____

Verse 8: _____

3. How should I respond as a believer in Christ?

Verse 6: _____

Verse 9: _____

4. John closes this section by reminding us again that it will be evident that we are God's children.

What is the evidence in verse 10 that we are children of God? _____

We began our study today by praying from Philippians 1 that our love would abound and that we would be filled with the fruit of righteousness. These two qualities should be growing within those who are God's children, but we have to resist the impulse to think that we accomplish this growth on our own. Hebrews 12:2 tells us that we should be "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." As we walk through this life we must remember that He is the one who began our faith, and He is the one who will complete our faith. This week we have learned that we need to abide closely to Christ, to see Him as He is, and to find our hope in Him.

5. Read the verses below. Record what you learn about Jesus and then how this applies to your life specifically. The first one is started for you.

- a. Matthew 14:23, 26:36, Mark 1:35: *Jesus made prayer a priority in His life. I will confess my sin in allowing other "conversations" (text, email, social media) to take time away from conversation with my Heavenly Father.* _____

b. John 5:30, 7:28: _____

c. John 16:33: _____

d. 1 Peter 1:15-16: _____

e. Ephesians 5:1-2: _____

f. 1 Peter 2:21-24: _____

g. Philippians 2:5-8: _____

h. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9: _____

6. Close in prayer today by focusing on the character of Christ and asking God to “perfect” your faith as you grow the fruit of righteousness and love in your life.

