

# Am I really a Christian?



## You Are Not A Christian If You Love Your Sin More Than The Savior

1 John 2.15-17

### Main Idea

If your desire is to Love your own passions & desires more than you love the passions & desires of God, then the love of God is not in you.

### Overview

#### **I. Do not love the world or the things in the world, if anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him**

- The word “world” is used in different ways:
  - World=humanity (John 3.16, etc.)
  - World=physical creation (Acts 17.24)
  - World=broken agendas of humanity (1 John 2.15)
    - Vs. 16: Example of those agendas:
      - Passions & desires that are rooted in our love of self
- Love is a “Master” or a “Governor” and all of us follow one of the two loves in this passage
  - What we need is a PROPER Master that will lead us into the light of life
  - You cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6.24)
- “Love” in vs. 15 is a present active verb: Saying you cannot persist or keep on loving the world or the things in the world
  - The true Christian will repent for sin
  - This illustrates that they are governed or controlled by the Greater love and have the Father’s love in them
- Galatians 5.16-24 illustrates what this “warfare” looks like
  - We are to crucify our flesh (not imbibe it)
  - When we are mastered by the love of the Father we see the world for what it was and will be

### Questions

Discussion Starter: *Discuss some rivals and what it would look like to love both sides. Is it even possible while maintaining true love to both?*

1. Read Matthew 6:24. Why is true that we cannot love two things that rival one another?
2. Read 1 John 2:15-17. What does John mean with the word “world”? How is it different than “world” in John 3.16?
3. What is it about the world (as it is used here) that is opposed to the Father’s love?
4. What does it mean to “love” as John uses it here?

5. How does Galatians 5:16-24 provide commentary on 1 John 2:16? Discuss how the “desires of the flesh” are opposed to “desires of the Spirit” and how this rivalry plays out in your life.
6. Is the love of the Father a love that constrains? Is this good or bad? Do other loves constrain? How so?
7. Take some time to discuss how the Father’s love sets you into the grooves you were meant to live in. How is it sexual purity (not sexual immorality), self-control (not anger), sobriety (not drunkenness) ultimately provide us a greater love instead of giving into these things for immediate joys?
8. What does this struggle look like in your lives? What are some places that are teasing you to give into prideful passions and desires?

Accountability Question: *Discuss the ways you are being tempted to love the world or the things in the world.*