



1 JOHN: Light. Life. Love.
Don't Be Seduced
1 John 2:15-17

To remain faithful to Jesus, we must recognize and resist the world's seduction.

I. The Test of Fidelity

According to John and Jesus, there is a category we must vigilantly consider if we are to remain faithful to Jesus Christ – the "world."

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

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." John 15:18-19

Refer to last week's sermon in the three uses of the word "world"... Here "world" means the organized system of human civilization and activity, which is opposed to God and alienated from him (John 3:19).

Since humanity's rebellion against God, there is a collective momentum of human sin based on a deep commitment to living our life independently of God. This commitment gets worked out in **assumptions** and **values** that are largely unexamined by those living in their culture.

"...don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." James 4:4

To remain faithful to Jesus, we must recognize and resist the world's seduction.

See John's language here (v. 15), where he says that our love of the world is opposed to our love of the Father (and Jesus).

Faithfulness is more than what you or I say we believe about God and Jesus. It ultimately about what we give our greatest love and energy to. Remember that Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandment is that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

II. The Seductive Power of the World

Satan is pleased to use any means possible to tempt us to sin. I think that two of his most common strategies are **intimidation** and **seduction**.

He tries to seduce us away from giving our greatest love and affection to the Lord by tempting us to believe that the world can satisfy our deepest longing for love, belonging, significance, and security.

"For wherever the human soul turns itself other than to you, it is fixed on sorrows even if it is fixed upon beautiful things." Augustine

III. The World's Subversive Power

I think for many of us, we are more vulnerable to the world's subversive power than we are to the direct enticements towards obvious sin.

I want to highlight to two aspects of our current Western culture that I believe are particularly dangerous for followers of Jesus: busyness and hurry.

"If the devil can't make you bad, he'll make you busy." Corrie ten Boom

Secular psychologists and mental health professionals are now talking about an epidemic of the modern world: "hurry sickness."

Q - Why is busyness or hurry so dangerous to our relationship with Jesus? At least two reasons. Hurry and busyness are incompatible with love. Attention is the beginning of worship.

Consider what two insiders in Silicon Valley have to say about our modern Western culture's power to distract us. According to **Tristan Harris**, everything is being intentionally designed for distraction and addiction. **Sean Parker**, the first president of Facebook, now calls himself a "conscientious objector" of social media. Parker says that the thought process that went into building the social media applications was – "How do we consume as much of their time and conscious attention as possible?"

A recent study found the average iPhone user touches their phone 2,617 times a day. Another study shows that our attention span is dropping with each passing year. In 2000, before the digital revolution, our attention span was 12 seconds, but now it's dropped to eight seconds (which is less than a goldfish).

"For many of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them." John Ortberg.

"The number one problem you will face is time. People are just too busy to live emotionally healthy and spiritually rich and vibrant lives." Christian Psychologist

IV. Return to the Lord (Hosea 6:1-3)

Perhaps we need to consider this same reality in our relationship with the Lord. We need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see the beauty and worth of Jesus Christ.

See Revelation 5:9-10, 12. Jesus is the only One who is worthy of our total devotion.

Recommended:

- RansomedHeart podcasts "The World" (6 part series)
- "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" John Mark Comer
- "The Tech-wise Family" Andy Crouch