

What is the Christian's Relation to the World?

Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel

1st John Study - 1st John 2:15-17

Sunday – May 25th, 2025

CONTEXT: 1st John is about reality – how can a person know they really have eternal life (1st John 5:13)? In 1st John we are provided contrasts between the saved and unsaved based on the reality of the work of God in true salvation (also called sanctification), as contrasted with the activity of the unsaved. John now addresses the Christian's relationship to the world system. One of the marks of true salvation is the Christian's righteous offense against the fallen course of the world. The phrase, "the world" means the system of evil, that is prevailing, blinding, and influencing all the actions of the unsaved living in the world. All mankind is born under the influence of the system of evil to the extent they are enslaved to its attitudes, philosophy, and actions. Knowing this, John makes this a mark of true salvation. Those who are in Christ are changed so that they are not lovers of the world system but are overcomers to the system.

Outline of the book of 1st John (underlined portion is the immediate context)

- I. The Reality of the Person of Christ (1:1-4)
- II. The Reality of Fellowship with Christ (1:5-2:29)
 - A. The Conditions for Fellowship (1st John 1:5-2:29)
 1. Walking in the Light (1:5-7)
 2. Walking by confession (1:8-2:2)
 3. Walking in Obedience (2:3-6)
 4. Walking in love (2:7-11)
 5. Walking away from evil (2:12-17)

Key Words & Phrases

- world (6 times)
- love or loves (3 times)
- lust or lusts (3 times)
- Do not
- will of God
- passing away
- forever

Introduction:

a. Command (2:15a)

b. Consequence (2:15b)

c. Components (2:16a)

d. Contrasts (2:16b-17)

Closing:
