

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

I John 2:15

The world – (Kosmon) This is a Greek word from which we get our English word *kosmos*. It has many meanings in the N. T. depending on the context. In our lesson today from **I John** the meaning is – The organized system of philosophies, theories, values, ethics and attitudes that are in direct opposition to God's word the Holy bible. In **Galatians 1:4** Paul calls it the **“present evil world.”**

I John 2:15a The phrase “*love not*” is translated from the Greek text and means “*to stop loving the world or do not have the habit of loving the world*”. More specifically it means “*stop letting the world shape and mold your motives, attitudes and values*”. In **Romans 12:2** Paul confirms with John.

I John 2:15a In the same verse John says not to love “*the things that are in the world.*” The obvious question would be what is in the world we are not to love?

I John 2:16 John answers this question with an affirmative absolute by saying “all that is in the world, *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life.*” All these things are against God.

THE LUST OF THE FLESH

Lust – The Greek word for lust is (ep-ee-thoo-mee-ah) which means *the desire of what is forbidden.*

I John 2:16 The phrase “the lust of the flesh” means – that which pampers and indulges the appetites of the sinful nature, focusing on living specifically for pleasure.

II Timothy 2:22 Paul wrote to Timothy and warned him to “flee youthful lusts” and to practice those things that would bring him into a right fellowship with God and others.

II Timothy 3:4 The lust of the flesh includes all sexually forbidden actions and desires but also includes excessive eating and drinking. Paul warned in the last days men would be “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.” With sports, T. V. , the internet, social media etc. the world beckons all of us.

THE LUST OF THE EYES

Luke 12:15 The lust of the eyes is wanting whatever the eyes see. It is a desire for possessions, it is covetousness, such as money, houses, lands, clothes, position.

Matthew 16:26 The lust of the eyes represents a life where possessions are the main focus and #1 priority of life rather than the bible and the things of God. “He who dies with the biggest toys wins.”

Matthew 6:33 How many Christian homes have divided families, lost children and broken relationships because of material desires taking priority over having a God fearing home.

THE PRIDE OF LIFE

John 12:43 The pride of life is the desire for power and prestige. It is the thirst to be noticed, honored, admired and applauded. It is the need to be the boss and have everyone know it. It is the attitude of trusting in our own experience, talents and wisdom instead of relying on God.

II Timothy 4:10 So many believers end up like Demas, turning from God and going back to the world. We must realize that all that the world has is fraudulent and worthless.

Luke 18:9-14 The sin of pride is so deceptive that we often think so highly of ourselves that we believe we are above repentance and are worthy of great reward for our saintly behavior.