DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD

1 John 2:12–17

Key Verse: 2:15

1. Read verses 12–14. Whom does the author address? What repeated phrases does he use? What does his addressing his audience as “dear children” (12,14) tell us about their relationship?
2. Who is “the evil one”? (3:12; 5:19) “Him who is from the beginning”? (1:1,2; cf. Jn1:1,2) What does it mean to “know” the Father and the one from the beginning? (2:3,4; 5:20; cf. Jn17:3)
3. What does it mean to have our “sins forgiven on account of his name”? (1:9; 2:1,2; 4:10; see also 3:23) To have the word of God living in us? (1:10; cf. Jn5:38; 8:31; 15:7) To “overcome” the evil one? (13b,14b; 4:4; 5:4,5,18; cf. Eph6:10–12; 1Pe5:8,9)
4. Read verse 15. What does the author mean when he says not to “love the world or anything in the world”? (4:5; cf. Jn15:19; Ro12:2a; Gal1:10; Eph2:2; 1Ti6:10) What reason does he give for not loving the world? (15b; cf. Lk16:13; Jas4:4)
5. How does the author describe “the world”? (16) Note how he repeats the word “lust” (the same word in verse 17 is translated “desires”). What is “the lust of the flesh”? (Nu11:4; Mt5:28) “The lust of the eyes”? (Ge6:2; Mt4:8) “The pride of life”? (Da4:30) What does it mean that these things do not come from the Father? (16b; cf. Jas3:15)
6. What is the author’s conclusion about the world and its desires? (17a; cf. Jas4:14) In light of this, to what should we devote our lives, and how can we do this practically? (17b; cf. Ro12:2; 1Th4:3–7; 5:16–18; 1Pe2:15; 3:17; 4:19)