
Essential Christianity:

In This World, But Not of This World

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, October 7, 2018*

If I Love the World, I Don't Love God

¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you...

In 1 John 2 "World" refers to...

"The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you." *John 15:19, NLT*

Love for The World Pushes Out Love for God

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." *Matthew 6:24, NLT*

Why?

All That Is in The World Is Not of God

If I Love the World, I Will Perish with The World

^{17a} And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave"

How I Live Now Determines Where I Will Live Then

2 Sets of Comparisons:

3 Things Every Christian Will Struggle With...

^{16b} These are not from the Father, but are from this world

John Makes Belonging to Jesus Sound Like Either / Or
Because It Is

"A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so **you can identify people by their actions."** *Matthew 7:17-20, NLT*

When I Enter God's Family Through Faith in Christ,
God Gives Me the Ability to Resist the World

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" *2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT*

So How Do I Resist?

I Want to Resist

I Abide in Christ & His Word

"But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!" *John 15:7, NLT*

I Walk in The Light with Other Believers

"So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. "But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin." *1 John 1:6-7, NLT*

The More I Love Jesus The Less Attraction, Influence,
And Power the World Has Over Me

If I Love God Instead of The World, I Will Live with God Forever

^{17b} But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever

The Big Question:

2 Possibilities If I Struggle to Love God

I Am Not Born Again

“... in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money... love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly...” 2 Timothy 3:1–5, NLT

My Love Has Grown Cold and Weak

“Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.” *Psalm 73:25–26, NLT*