

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **March 19, 2017** sermon, "Wasted Love." Please read the sermon passage (1 John 2:15-17) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

REGARDING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD, NOTE . . .

1. **The command given by God.** (15)
 - a. Do not love the world or the things that are in the world.
 - b. Jesus' love for the world is sacrificial, life-giving and transformational.
 - c. Love for the world is self-indulging, life-taking and it conforms us to the world.
 - d. If we love the world, the love of God is simply not in us.
2. **The reasons not to love the world.** (16)
 - a. Desires of the flesh (my impulses and passions). "Desires shape destinies."
 - b. Desires of the eyes (my self-centered covetousness). Where you look is where you go.
 - c. Pride of Life (my tendency to put myself at the center of everything).
 - d. "I used to think God's gifts were on shelves, one above another, so the taller we grow, the easier we can reach them. Now I find that God's gifts are on shelves, one beneath another, and the lower we stoop, the more we get." -FB Meyer
3. **The future described by God.** (17)
 - a. The future of this world is passing away, along with all these temporary desires.
 - b. The one who does the will of God continues to abide, forever.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In John 3, "God so loves the world," but here we are instructed, "Do not love the world." Describe God's life-giving and sacrificial love, which transforms people.
2. Based on #1, above: Which things in the world do you tend to love? How will you heed this command, "Do not love the things of this world"?
3. Based on #2, above: When someone is in pain, or telling a story or simply living life, do you tend to inject yourself, your experiences or your advice on them? How often do you use the words "I" and "me" and "my" in your interaction with others? What are other ways that you tend to put yourself in the center of everything? Do you recognize this as pride?
4. Based on #2, above: How have you found God's gifts on lower and lower shelves? What situations has God put you in just to cause you to stoop further? How might God be at work for good when he forces further stooping in our lives?
5. Based on #3, above: All of the temporary desires of this world are passing away. We are instructed to "do God's will" even while we war against temporary desires. Discuss this tension.