

A REMINDER OF THE THREE “TESTS” OF SALVATION THROUGHOUT 1 JOHN

1. The THEOLOGICAL test — Do you BELIEVE that Jesus is the Son of God (18x) and therefore, the LIGHT of the world?

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

2. The MORAL Test — Is it your desire to be holy? Are you making every EFFORT to live above sin?

1John 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; . . .

3. SOCIAL Test — Do you truly LOVE others?

1John 4:21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.



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LINGERING QUESTIONS

What exactly is the world?

Why would I hate the world? Didn't God so love the world...?

Is there a list of activities that are worldly? Or is it more nuanced than that?

Should I just isolate myself and have it done with?

Is there a line that you cross from godly to worldly? If so, what do you do when you realize you have crossed the line?

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES —

1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children because you know the Father. 14 I write to you fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life[c]—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT — VS. 12-14

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1. John pauses in his instruction to give some pastoral encouragement to his readers.
2. Commentaries argue whether there are three groups John is addressing, or just two. I lean toward two, primarily because John is constantly addressing all of his readers as “my dear children” in this letter.

A STERN WARNING CONCERNING A DIVIDED HEART

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1. There are two key words in this passage: *love* and *world*. For world, he’s using the Greek word, kosmos (κοσμος). Here “kosmon” is used to describe the earthly order of values, beliefs, and behaviors that are in opposition to God and his purposes.

1 John 5:19 “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

2. The word for love is agapate (αγαπατε). This could be translated as, “Don’t give these things the highest value in your life.”
3. We can’t say we love God and the deep life of love, peace and contentment he offers, and at the same time be actively embracing the values and lifestyles of the world.

DESIRES THAT DON’T SATISFY - V. 16

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life —is not from the Father but is from the world.

1. John is identifying three worldly desires that are characteristic of a worldly way of life. They are the desires to *do*, to *have*, and to *be*.

2. In the Greek language, “desires” or “lust” is a compound word which takes the normal word for desire and puts a prefix on it that intensifies it: epithumia (επιθυμια). Literally, it could be translated “hyper-desire.”

3. Lust begins with a healthy desire but takes it to an unhealthy extreme. Loving the world is using legitimate desires in illegitimate ways.
 - a. The first hyper-desire is the “the desires of the flesh”. This is the desire to do. That word “flesh”: sarkos (σαρκος) refers to our senses. The world takes these desires and twists them into something they were never meant to be.
 - b. The second hyper-desire John identifies is “the desires of the eyes” This is the desire to have. This desire is directed more toward material things. It’s the subtle movement toward covetousness and envy.
 - c. The third hyper-desire is the desire to have “the pride of life.” This is the desire to be. This is the desire to be recognized and celebrated.

FILLING OUR DEEPEST DESIRE - V. 17

1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1. The things the world is looking to are all temporary and in the process of passing away. Now we can understand why they don’t satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts.
2. Pleasure, experiences, possessions, and status are all so temporary. They were never meant to replace God. But once that desire is satisfied, once we have turned to God and aligned ourselves with his good and eternal purpose for our lives, we can experience earthly things as they were meant to be enjoyed—in relationship with him. What a gift!

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

1. God’s will for you is not isolation but insulation.
2. God’s will for you is proclamation not provocation.
3. Let’s lay any remaining pretense aside. What needs brought to the light?