

Going Deeper: Who's in Charge Anyway? 1 John 2:15-17; 5:1-5

January 24, 2010

The world doesn't love you. John issued a stern warning to first century believers not to love the world. John warned that this world has nothing to offer us. Nothing. No hope. No comfort. Nothing. In fact, God has given that same message to his people since from the beginning. In 1 Samuel 8:4-22, the people of Israel asked for a king to lead them. They wanted to be like the other nations v. 5. God tried to warn them not to be like the other nations, but the Israelites rejected God v.7. They chose a king over God. Jesus gives us victory over sin and the consequences of it. Jesus or the world is the choice before us.

You can't look at to the world or the people following the ways of the world as your measuring stick to decide if you are following the right path. The world lies to you about what is important. The world entices you to follow your own path. You have to look to Jesus. You have to evaluate the love He has for you and the love you have for Him. Is that love giving you the strength to overcome the desires of this world? If it isn't, then you need to know one truth: it isn't Jesus love for you that is the problem.

Read 1 John 2:15-17 and 5:1-5.

Group Discussion

- 1) Describe the person who loves the world according to John's description?
- 2) Read 1 Tim. 6:6-10 and Matt. 16:26. How do these help in understanding 1 John 2:15-17? Why does John warn us not to love the world?
- 3) Contrast the man or woman who loves the world with the one who loves God.
- 4) In 1 John 5:1-5, John describes the evidence of our faith. Talk about that evidence. What is it?
- 5) What does John mean in v.5:3 about "his commands are not burdensome"?
- 6) What are the benefits of our faith in Jesus?

Life Application

- 7) When you read James 4:13-17, does this describe you?
- 8) Are you carrying out Jesus commands in your life right now? What can you do about it?

- 9) What assurances can you take from 1 John 5:4-5?
- 10) Do believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Do you love Him? How about his other children?
- 11) Can you overcome the world on you own? What strength do you have to overcome sin and the world? How does it work?
- 12) When you read 1 John 5:5 and James 1:19-25 are there areas in your life that you need to be obedient and make changes to overcome the world?