

1st John
Loving God

If you want to know if someone really loves God,
just ask this simple question.
1 John 2:12-17

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE:

1 John 2:15 John 3:16 1 John 5:19 James 4:4

Did you know there are actually two worlds?

THE PRIORITY QUESTION:

1 John 2:15-17 Matthew 6:19-24

What am I _____?

THREE CHOICES THAT SHOW MY REAL PRIORITY:

1 John 2:16 James 1:13-16 Matthew 6:33
Philippians 2:3 1 Corinthians 10:13

1) Do I choose the lust of the flesh or _____?

2) Do I choose the lust of the eyes or _____?

3) Do I choose the pride of life or _____?

TWO DIFFERENT RESPONSES:

1 John 2:17 Matthew 4:1-11 Matthew 19:16-26
Philippians 3:8-21

A Worldly Response: _____, _____, and _____.

An Eternal Response: God's _____ and _____.

1. The advertising industry spends billions of dollars each year trying to convince you that you need their products. Can you think of any ads or products (past or present) that really made you want something? Did you end up buying it? Did the purchase live up to its promise?

2. Looking back over the last couple weeks, what are a few things that competed for your time, attention, or resources? Now list at least three things that you would most like to pursue on a regular basis.

Is there anything in this week's message or homework that could help you keep your focus on the things that matter most?

3. This week's message shed some light on the epic battle that tempts us to love the things of this world more than God. When we find ourselves yielding to temptation, it is often the last step in a series of bad choices. Adam and Eve give us some insight into the process of temptation. Read **Genesis 3:1-13** and identify both the strategy of the serpent and the steps that led to their sin

What lessons can we learn from their experience about how temptation works in our own lives and how we can respond to God when we have blown it?

How can God's promises in **1 Corinthians 10:13** help you stand strong in the midst of temptation?

4. Chris encouraged us to make God's agenda for our lives a first priority. How do the following verses help you understand what's on God's heart and motivate you to continue pursuing those things?

Matthew 22:37-40

Philippians 2:1-5

1 Peter 4:7-11

Which of these verses caught your attention most and why?

3. This weekend we heard about how a rich young man's choices kept him from following Jesus. **1 Chronicles 21:1-8** gives us a glimpse into the heart of King David and reveals how pride got in the way of his relationship with God. What do you think motivated David to "sin greatly" by counting his fighting men?

David's pride was revealed in his need to count the men. What do you "count" in your life that could be a source of pride? (wealth, status, power, looks, ability, etc...)

5. It's good for us to remember that God wants us to have self-control in the way we deal with our needs and desires. **2 Peter 1:3-9** encourages us to add self-control to knowledge and then add perseverance to self-control.

Knowledge – Knowing what tempts you is a first step in avoiding sin. Can you think of a few things or situations that set you up to sin or choose the wrong priorities?

Self-control – Our ability to say "no" to what we want is one of the most important things about us. How could you grow your ability to stand strong in the face of any temptations you listed above?