

## **THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD (1 John 2:12-17)**

**Nov. 30th, 2025**

### **TEXT - 1 John 2:12-17**

**MAIN IDEA**--Every Christian must seek to grow in our love for God and guard against the seduction of the world that competes for the throne of our hearts.

### **MEMORY VERSE: [Col. 3:1-2]**

**KNOW WHO YOU ARE (1 Jn. 2:12-14)** --John knows the testimony of this congregation's life firsthand, and he describes them and the different stages of spiritual maturity within this congregation. Each of these descriptions reveal different aspects of a Christian's growth.

**Children (V12, 13b)**—Every follower of Christ is a *child of God* by grace through faith in Jesus, whether a recent convert or a long-time follower of Christ.

**Jn.1:11-13; Rom.4:7-8; Rom.8:15-16**

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**Fathers (V13a, 14a)**—These are *spiritually mature saints* who know God through experiencing His faithfulness over time. Therefore, they gain wisdom and deep trust in God's wisdom, power, and love. **2 Tim.2:2-3**

\*This ought to be the goal of every Christian, to be students of the word, that are doers of the word, who gain wisdom from the word and testify to God's faithfulness.

**Young Men (V13b, 14b)**—These are Christians characterized by *spiritual strength* that comes from standing on God's word and winning spiritual battles.

**Ps.119:9-11; Rev.12:11**

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**KNOW WHOM TO LOVE (1 John 2:15-17)**—John also warns these believers to beware of being seduced by the world, because this is the path that leads to destruction.

**DON'T LOVE THE WORLD (1 John 2:15)** --Love speaks of devotion to something or someone. World can mean: the created work (**Jn.17:24**); the world of people (**Jn.3:16**); or the ungodly world system influenced by Satan and organized against Christ and His kingdom (**1 Jn.2:15**).

>Love for the world reveals the absence of love for God (**1 Jn. 2:15b**).

**Matt.10:37-39; James 4:4**

>The ways of the world are enemies of God's people (**1 John 2:16**).

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**The Lust of the flesh** is the sin nature in man, any evil desire or excessive pleasure apart from God (**Gal.5:16-21**).

**The Lust of the eyes** applies to any evil desire that comes from what we see. This is huge in our video driven culture.

**The boastful pride of life**, arrogance and ungodly desire to promote ourselves. **Gen.3:1-7**

> The world is passing away (**1 Jn. 2:17**).

**LOVE AND SERVE GOD** because it counts **FOREVER** (**1 Jn. 2:17**).

**3 points of actions to stir our hearts in loving God**

>Turn and seek your first love (**Rev.2:2-5**).

>Renew your mind by paying attention to God through meditation [**Ps.1:1-3**].

>Seeking God in prayer [**Ps. 119:33-40**].