

God Commands You
Do Not Love!

1 John 2:15 Vs. John 3:16

In one way, these passages appear to be contradictory in light of the fact that we as Christians are called to love like nobody's business. We love because God is love. We love because God first loved us. We love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and we love our neighbor as ourselves. There are myriad commands to love one another. In fact, that's how the world knows that we're Christians by our love and our love for one another, but not only our love for one another. We love our enemies. By love we fulfill the law.

Romans 13:8-10

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Do not love is a command, which means that if we violate it, that we're in sin. In other words,
love can be sinful.

We live in the midst of a culture that needs to hear that.
The world presents us with the idea that
love is love

They protest, how can you be against love Nobody can be against love. Certainly Christians can't be against love because God is love and we are called to love. Therefore, how can you stand in the way of any two people who love one another.

This issue of love being sinful is more than just a theoretical theological discussion for us to have. This is a very practical rubber meets the road issue.

The question is what makes love sinful?

What could possibly make love sinful?

Under what circumstances would love be considered sinful?

Love becomes sinful when it is directed at the wrong object.

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. Do not love the world.

Now, it's very important to note that this word **world** is used in at least three different ways. First of all, the world can refer to all creation. The word cosmos refers to all the world, to all the created universe. John is not saying here that we should not love this universe, this world, this earth that God created that's not what's being said here.

Secondly, the term world refers to the people that inhabit this world, that God created. And God is not saying, do not love people. Do not love mankind. Absolutely not. We know that it doesn't mean that because of the love that we're called to give even to our enemies.

The the great commandment, love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. So John can't be talking about that first world here and he can't be talking about that second world here. That would be a contradiction.

There is a third use of the term world, and that third use refers to the spiritual realm that is in opposition to God and in rebellion against His kingdom. It is that third sense of world that is being discussed here.

So when John says, do not love the world he says:

Your love becomes sinful when it's directed at that system that is anti-christ, anti kingdom, and satanic. He makes it obvious that it's satanic because he uses it several times, John writes that by faith, the Christian is able to overcome the world. In 1 John, he says, the world passes away. In 1 John 3:1, he says, the world is ignorant of God. In 1 John 3:13, he says, the world hates believers. 1 John 4:1, he says, it's the world of false prophets, 1 John 4:3, it's the abode of the antichrist, 1 John 4:5, it's the abode of unbelievers and last, the whole world is controlled by the evil one.

In this text, **he's referring to that world that is under the control of our adversary**, the devil, that world that is spiritual and ideological and at war with our King and His kingdom. And we are told, do not love that world. Not at all. Our minds are cleansed of the vanity of this world.

When your love is pointed toward the world, there is no room for the love of God. Because when your love and your affections are pointed toward the world, they are pointed toward that which opposes God.

There for love can become sinful when it is directed at the wrong object.

In James 4:4, You adulterous people. Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God. Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. No man can serve two masters. He will love the one and hate the other. This is an either or situation. You cannot love the world and love God simultaneously. In the process of salvation, we are taken out of the world. We're taken out of that system. We're brought out of darkness and into His marvelous light, we transfer kingdoms, we transfer allegiances.

But if our love is still for the world, our allegiance has not legitimately been transferred, which is why in 1 John 2:19, John says, they went out from among us because they were not all of us. If they had been of us, they would've remained, but they left so that it might be known, so that it might be obvious that we might see that, that they were never ours. They were never His because their love, their affections were pointed at the system that is opposed to God.

1 John 5:4

John 15:19

John 17:18

Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. There is a love that husbands are called to give exclusively to their wives. And the moment you turn that love onto another, you are guilty of idolatry. It's the same point here. The moment you turn that love that we are called to have for God, that love that has been shed abroad in our hearts, the minute you turn that to the world out of which you were saved that minute you are communicating the fact that you do not have the love of God or love for God.

We must constantly examine our hearts for the presence of this love of the world. There is a tendency to take this in very wrong direction. We are to fight worldliness, but to hold pride in what we do not do and let that lead us to an, "I am better than you", attitude is an urge we must fight, because I don't participate in the world and don't love the world are two very different things. We must develop discernment in order to determine the difference.

Love becomes sinful when it *arises from the wrong source*.

1 John 2:16

So there's a problem first with the object, and now here there's a problem with the source. There is a love for the world that arises from the world. Likewise, love for God and for the things of God arises from God. It is God who gives us the capacity to love God.

But thirdly, here we have a love that is arising from a different source. The first two categories that are mentioned here, cravings and lust, are sinful desires. Boasting, however is sinful behavior from *internal to external*.

The first two are internal and hidden sins. The last one pertains to the person in community with others and its cravings, lust, and boasting. These things arise from the world. For example, in that first world, I can love the beauty of a sunset. I can love the beauty of a perfectly cooked steak, and I can love the beauty of music and art. Those are things in this world that God has made, I can and I must love the people whom God has created in this world. But the kind of love that I have for those things must be a love that arises from God himself. But even those loves can be perverted. And so now, instead of me loving the beauty of a sunset or the beauty of God's created order, now I worship God and acknowledge His Glory in His creation. If I worship the creature rather than the creator, admiring or take in the beauty of those things that God has given us apart from His love, those things can become a means to an end, to satisfying myself, to gratifying my flesh, to quenching my lustful desires. That's when they've crossed a boundary into sin.

True love can cause me to use my voice to proclaim the truth of the gospel. Pride makes me love the sound of my voice so that I just talk too much. True love can lead me to share my story, but my pride causes me to make myself the hero of every story I tell, making me one of those people who constantly gives you their resume. That's what it looks like when it becomes outwardly sinful. True love can show gratitude for the things with which God has blessed me. But my pride can make me constantly give you the price tag of those things so that you can be impressed. Finally, and ultimately and most importantly, our love becomes sinful when it produces the wrong fruit, when it leads to the wrong ends.

John 15:17

On the one hand, you have this world that is passing away. And on the other hand, you have our God who abides forever. Love becomes sinful when it leads to wrong ends and produces wrong fruit. Our passions become sinful when they are pointed in directions that lead to death and destruction as opposed to leading to life.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31,

There is no life there. This is so pertinent to our times because of the love is love crowd. Particularly in the area of same-sex marriage. How can you be opposed to same-sex marriage when marriage is just about people who love each other being allowed to express that love But that's a love that's pointed at the wrong object. That is not a love that comes from God or that brings glory and honor to God. It is pointed at the wrong object. It is a love that arises from the wrong source.

Romans 1:18-25

If a man comes to me talking about a desire for a woman who is not his wife, I'm not going to tell him to just go ahead and embrace the desire. Because the desire in and of itself is okay. It's not God gave them up to dishonorable passions for their women, exchanged the natural relations for those that are contrary to nature. And the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another. Men committing shameful acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error. There is the bad fruit.

It's pointed in the wrong direction. It is arising from the wrong source and it is producing bad fruit. Therefore it falls into the category of love that is sinful. It falls into the category of love that does not glorify God. It falls into the category of love for that third version of the word world. Not the first God's created order, not the second people in the world, but that third, that system that is openly opposed to all that God is. And that rebels against the reign of God and his kingdom.

This is precisely where we are. Not only that, this rebellion is no longer covert, but it has become overt. It is out there and it is in our faces. And unfortunately it is being urged along by people within the church who are essentially arguing that love is always righteous. Love is always godly. Love is always appropriate 'cause God loves everyone and God loves everything. And right here the Bible says, **do not love**. There are some loves that are out of bounds. There are some loves that are unacceptable. In other words, there are some loves that are not truly love.

That's love of the world. Do not love the world. Do not love based on your passions and your desires, but love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. Which means your passions are to be turned in His direction and no other. We must reject the lie that says there is no love that is out of bounds. Because ultimately that lie that says there is no love that's out of bounds is a lie that says there is no truth in God.

And we see that here in this text. The world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. This "do not love the world" is not God saying, listen, there's good stuff out there that I want to keep from you. That's the lie of the serpent. This "do not love". says that what looks good to you and may even feel good to you, but in the end you'll perish. God is calling you away from it because He actually loves you and in loving you, He wants you to abide in Him, to remain in Him and to not perish. So do not love the world.