**Dead to the world – 1 John 2:15 -16**

**Focal Truth: Believers are dead to the world refusing to love the world because they love God**

The greatest battle between heaven & earth is over men’s affections – who will they love!

**Observations**

1. **Believers are dead to the world refusing to love the world & it’s things because they love God – 2:15**

*Do not love the world nor the things of the world nor the things of the world, if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him*

1. Believer’s refuse to love the world – love = to take pleasure in something, to place the

greatest value on it – **to give your heart to something!**

 2 Tim. 4:10 – for Demas having loved this present world has deserted me

 **Love the traditions of the world**

 **Love the ways of the world**

 **Love the worldly wisdom & worldly teachings**

Col. 2:8 – see to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception

 according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world,

 rather than according to Christ

 Col. 2:20 – if you died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you

 were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees

 1 Tim. 4:1 – the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will fall away from the

 faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons

 b. Believers refuse to love the things of the world because of their love for God

 **Worldly approval** - John 12:43 – the Pharisees loved the approval of people

 **Worldly riches** – 1 Tim. 6:10 – for the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil

 **Worldly power & authority** – John 5:41 – I do not receive glory from men

 **Worldly fame –** Matt. 6:1 – beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be

 noticed by them, otherwise you have no reward with your Father in heaven

 Lk. 10:27 **– you** **shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your**

 **Strength, and all your mind…**

 **Love for God over powers love for the world!**

1. **Believers are dead to the world refusing to love what is not from God because they love the gifts of God – 2:16**

*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful*

 *pride of life, is not from the Father but is from the world*

 a. Believers recognize that the ways of the world are not from God

 **What are the ways of the world?**

 **1. Fleshly desires – craving for physical pleasures**

Gal. 5:16 – walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh

 **2. Sight desires – craving for everything we see**

 **3. Pride & arrogance – in our achievements and possessions**

1 Pet. 4:3 – for the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of

 the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking

 parties and abominable idolatries

 b. Believers love the God who gives grace to His people in the Lord Jesus Christ

 Jesus said, I am the way...follow me…live like I live

 Gal. 5:22 – the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

 faithfulness, gentleness, self – control…

 1 John 2 – God is Light and in Him there is no darkness

1. **Believers are dead to the world refusing to love what is passing away because they love the God who gives eternal life – 2:17 -18**

*The world is passing away, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God lives*

 *forever. Children, it is the last hour, and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even*

*now many antichrists have appeared, from this we know that it is the last hour*

 a. Believers understand that the world & its’ things **are temporary - soon to pass**

 1 Cor. 7:31 – the form of this world is passing away – the ways of the world will end

 2 Pet. 3:10 – ff - but the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will

 pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat and the earth

 & it’s works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what

 sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening

 the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning

 and the elements will melt with intense heat!

 b. Believers understand that the world & its’ things **don’t satisfy**

 Eccl. 1:14 – I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all

 is vanity and striving after wind

 John 6:35 – Jesus said, I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me will not hunger, & he

 believes in Me will never thirst

1. Believers do God’s will because **they love God & want to please him in the world** – **They have given their heart to God not the world**

 John 17:6 – I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world,

 they were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word

 John 14:15 – if you love me, you will keep my commandments

**Things to Remember**

1. Loving the world and loving God are impossible – Matt. 6:24 – you cannot serve God & wealth
2. Loving God kills the desire to love the world
3. God lovers hate the sinful desires of the world
4. Loving God & doing His will in this temporary world is the duty of every believer

**Daily Use**

1. **Do you love the world more than you love God? Does God have your heart or does the world have your heart?**
2. **Are you trusting in the world & its ways to last?**
3. **Die to the world – love God – live for God a temporary world**