**CROSS-EXAMINING WORLDLY LOVE**

**1 John 2:12-17**

*“I am writing to you, little children, since your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one. 14 I have written to you, children, because you have come to know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, God’s word remains in you, and you have conquered the evil one.*

*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. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.”* (1 John 2:12-17)

**THE BIG IDEA: A person who truly knows God will continue to grow into maturity while rejecting a love for the things of this world.**

**TRULY KNOWING GOD RESULTS IN GROWING IN GOD**

* *“I am writing to you, little children, since your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one. 14 I have written to you, children, because you have come to know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, God’s word remains in you, and you have conquered the evil one.”* (1 John 2:12-14)
* **If you are truly born again in Christ you do not have to wonder about your salvation; you can rest assured you are God’s child.**
* **We can come as we are to God, but we cannot stay as we are.**
* *“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, 7 godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 1:5-8)

**LOVING THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD LEADS TO A BITTER END**

* *“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. 16* *For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.”* (1 John 2:12-17)
* *“So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall.”* (1 Corinthians 10:12)
* **Living to love and feed the sinful desires of this world demonstrates that we do not love and know God.**
* **One cannot love the things of this world that are in opposition to God and love God at the same time.**
* *“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* (James 4:6)
* *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time.”* (1 Peter 5:6)
* **Nothing this world has to offer will be lasting satisfaction or fulfillment.**
* **Those who do God’s will are guaranteed escape from the judgement and destruction of this world and they will enter into glory with the Lord forever!**
* *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 7:21)