**9-20-15**

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**An Authentic Believer:**

**does not love this world**

Isaiah 40:6-8

. . . people are like the grass. Their beauty fades as quickly as the flowers in a field. 7  The grass withers and the flowers fade beneath the breath of the LORD. And so it is with people. 8  The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.”

What The Bible Says

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16  For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.

These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17  And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

## 1. What is the “World” ?

**World**:

Greek: kosmos

* the morally evil system that is opposed to all that God is

*“We are not to become more attached to the things*

*of this world than we are to God -*

*and loving Him with everything we’ve got.”*

1 John 5:19

We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Ephesians 6:11-12

Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12  For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

## The “world” is - all that is against God.

## 2. What is the “the lust of the flesh” ?

* usually refers to sexual sins

Matthew 5:28

But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Great Gift

* the ability to reflect

## 3. What is the “the lust of the eyes” ?

* craving
* greed
* accumulating stuff

## 4. What is the “the pride of life” ?

* the things we boast about
  + our stuff
  + our accomplishments
  + our status

James 4:4-7

You adulterers! Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. 5  What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? 6  But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.” 7  So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Application

**Do I love this world?**

**Am I doing what pleases God?**

1 John 4:4

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory . . . or the “people” because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

1 John 4:4 (KJV)

*. . . greater is he that is in you,*

*than he that is in the world.*

*“God values self-control, a spirit of generosity, and a commitment to humble service. Believers can give the impression of avoiding worldly pleasures while still harboring worldly attitudes in their hearts. However, they can do as Jesus did—love sinners and spend time with them while maintaining a commitment to the values of God's kingdom.”*

-labc

**The Promise: we will live with Him forever!**

Response:

What is God speaking to me?

## Specifically, how will I obey Him?