



I John 2:12-17

Scripture Memory

I John 1:4

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Basically, sin is the cause of the unhappiness that overwhelms our world today. Sin promises joy, but it always produces sorrow. The pleasures of sin are temporary...God's pleasures last eternally—they are forevermore (Ps. 16:11).

Warren Wiersbe, p. 477

Sunday School Lesson Notes

Key Thoughts

This "world" named here as our enemy is an invisible spiritual system opposed to God and Christ... "The world," in the Bible, is Satan's system for opposing the work of Christ on earth. It is the very opposite of what is godly and holy and spiritual.

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume II* (Colorado Springs, David C. Cook Publishers, 1989), p. 491.

Among Christians, worldliness rears its ugly head in many subtle and unrecognized forms.

Warren Wiersbe, p. 494.

Questions to Consider

As you answer the questions and prepare for Sunday school, carefully read I John 2:12-17.

1. In I John 2:7-11, Scriptures teach that believers must love one another. However, in I John 2:12-17, Scriptures teach that God hates a certain type of love. From what type of love must believers abstain?
2. According to I John 2:15, what is the internal reality when someone displays a love for the world?

The heart of man is narrow, and cannot contain both loves. The world draws down the heart from God; and so the more the love of the world prevails the more the love of God dwindles and decays.

Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible, Volume VI* (Hendrickson Publishers), p. 862.

3. What are the three devices of the world's system designed to trap Christians in worldliness (I John 2:16)?

And can you draw any parallels between these three devices and the temptation of Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:6) and of Jesus in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-12)?

4. I John 2:17 gives the believer two reasons to love not the world. What are they and how would you apply them to yourself?

- [Read II Corinthians 4:18, Hebrews 11:13, 13:14]

*Swift to its close ebbs out [recedes] life's little day; Earth's joy grow dim, its glories pass away!
Change and decay in all around I see: O Thou who changest not, abide with me!*

Abide With Me, by Henry F. Lyte

- [Read Philippians 3:20]

Truth to Ponder

Worldliness is not so much a matter of activity as of attitude. It is possible for a Christian to stay away from questionable amusements and doubtful places and still love the world, for worldliness is a matter of the heart.

Warren Wiersbe, p. 492.

The world is clearly evil. It has the ability to corrupt whatever it touches. Thus, the Christian must avoid falling under its influence. Just as Jesus was not of this world, Christians must not be a part of it. This is not merely a matter of avoiding certain worldly actions. A whole set of diametrically different attitudes and values is involved.

Millard J. Erickson. *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids, Baker Book House, 1996), p. 648.