

January 17/18, 2004

LifeGroup Discussion Questions
Torn Between Two Lovers
1 John 2:15-17
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. What is the value system of the world? How does this world define success? How is success displayed in this value system?
2. What is God's value system? How is it alike or different from the value system of this world?
3. Given your definition of these two value systems, is it possible to live out both value systems simultaneously? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Read 1 John 2:15-17. Compare 3:1, 5:19, James 4:4, Eph. 2:1,2. From these texts define what John means by "world" in 1 John 2:15?

2. What does John mean when he states, "If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him"? What does it mean to love the world?

What does it mean to love the "things" of this world?

3. Define the "lust of the flesh." Compare how Paul uses the term "flesh" in Galatians 3:3.

What does it mean to define yourself by the statement: "I am what I do"?

4. To define yourself by the statement, "I am what I do" is to reduce life to a comparison and competition. How does this play out in our culture?

5. Define the "lust of the eyes." How does this correlate with loving the "things" of this world?

What does it mean to define yourself by the statement, "I am what I possess"?

6. If success is defined by what I do, then possessions become the means by which I communicate my success. How does this play out in our culture? How do the marketers of the culture tap into this value system?

7. Define the "boastful pride of life."

How does this "boasting" explain why people have these huge credit card debts and simply spend more money than they make?

8. Why is it so hard to give money to God if you love the world?

The problem is not that we can't afford to give. The problem is we can't afford to give if we buy into the value system of the world. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?

9. What is the alternative to loving this world and the things of this world?

What does this mean in everyday practice? How will this be evident in the management of our resources?

10. What is the benefit of loving the Father?

Application

1. Which value system are you living out each day? What is the evidence of your conclusion?

Does how you spend your money support your conclusion?

2. Which value system do you *want* to live out each day?

What will be necessary for this to happen or continue to happen?

3. What is the biggest challenge to loving the Father and living out His eternal value system?

What can your group do together to help address this challenge?

4. Pray for God's leading throughout the body of LBC regarding the *For This Purpose I Live* campaign.