

Fighting Fire with Fire

I John 2:14-17

What?

Love the world and pass away; love God and forever stay

“The Word of God” (13b-14)—

In poetic form, John reminds his readers of the specific evidences of their fellowship with God

The “word of God,” refers not so much to Scriptural truth, but the presence of Christ abiding in us

So the key to overcoming the evil one, and by implication the world, is the presence of Christ abiding in us

“The Love of the Father” (15-16)—

This phrase is part of a judgment against the worldly false teachers—the foundational truth in verse 16 explains further

The world is its systems that are exalted against God, with its various desires, ruled by the evil one

A person who loves the world by idolizing it and depending on it has never experienced “the love of the Father”

But also, believers who flirt with the world cut themselves off from experiencing the fullness of God’s love

John warns that the world is passing away, along with those who love and depend on its systems (17)

The Big Question—what does the will of God involve?

“The desires of the world” vs. “the will of God” (17)—

To answer this question, we need to contrast “the desires of it the world” with “the will of God

The first has to do with self-will, the second with submitting to God’s will

Vs. 16—God’s will involves not the craving of worldly pleasure, but instead a desire for the spiritual delights of God’s goodness; not coveting what we see in this world, but seeking to see spiritual reality with the eyes of faith; not pride in what we possess and accomplish in this life, but humility in what we have received from God for His glory

The promise is that those who do this will remain forever

Connection with Jesus—

John 5:30, ESV—“I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me”

The greatest example of this was when Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane facing death, said, “Not my will, but Yours”

Remember that we have His presence abiding in us

So What?

Vs 15—John calls on us to make a decision to not love the world, because we want the fullness of the Father’s love

Pray the promise to the Lord and preach it to yourself

Speak back to the world; say, “That will pass away”

God uses His promises to entice us away from the world

Fight the fire of worldly desire with the fire of godly desire

The last word—Jesus

Luke 12:30-31, ESV—“For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you”

Now What?

Pray the promise to God and preach it to yourself

Make a decision to seek God’s will and His kingdom