

The Enemy Around

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 2:15-17.

B. We achieve maturity through various events and stages.

C. Subject: the supreme threat to fellowship and Christian maturity.

II. What is dangerous about the world.

A. The world itself.

1. This is not referring to physical nature.

2. This is not referring to the world of people either. (John 3:16)

3. This refers to a religious world that hated Christ because He continually challenged its philosophy.

a. It is concerned only with the honor that comes from man.

b. It is centered only in this life.

B. The things of the world.

1. The lust of the flesh. This refers to the sinful tendencies of humanity.

2. The lust of the eyes.

a. This is a desire for comfort and pleasure.

b. There are certain things that we are not to enter into because they are not good for us.

3. The pride of life. This is the desire to awaken envy or adulation in others.

4. We are not to love these things.

C. Since love for God and love for the world is mutually exclusive, we cannot love both.

1. No man can serve two masters—choosing the world excludes the love of God completely.

2. He who chooses God abides forever.

3. If the things Christ values are most important to you, you are laying up treasures forever.

Application questions:

1. What is the world according to John, and how can it be a threat to the believer?

2. How does the world manifest itself? Which of these do you find yourself struggling with the most?

3. Why can one only place his allegiance in God or the world? Explain.
