**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

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Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Lead Pastor*

**LOVE HATE**

Misplaced Love

1 John 2:15-17



I have a **love hate relationship** with **food**. I have love hate relationship with **exercise**. I have a love hate relationship **golf**.

**What are your love hate relationships?** You love them but hate them at the same time. We feel perfectly comfortable loving and hating at the same time. But …

When it comes to our relationship with God … love and hate cannot **coexist**.

***Do not love the world or the things in the world.*** *If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.* 1 John 2:15–17

Love for the **world** pushes out love for **God**.

*If anyone loves the world, the* ***love of the Father is not in him****.*   
1 John 2:15b

But the inverse is also true …

Love for **God** pushes out love for the **world**.

If you love the **world** … you **can’t** and **won’t** love God.

***Do not love the world*** *or the things in the world.* 1 John 2:15a

When we are told *not* to love the world, the Bible is referring to the **world’s corrupt value system.**

*You adulterous people! Do you not know that* ***friendship with the world is enmity with God****? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself* ***an enemy of God****.* James 4:4

*“****No one can serve two masters****, for either he will* ***hate the one and love the other****, or he will be* ***devoted*** *to the one and* ***despise*** *the other.* ***You cannot serve God and money****.* Matthew 6:24

*Whoever* ***loves his life loses it****, and* ***whoever hates his life in this world*** *will keep it for eternal life.* John 12:25

*For* ***all*** *that is in the world—the* ***desires of the flesh*** *and the* ***desires of the eyes*** *and* ***pride of life****—is* ***not*** *from* ***the Father*** *but* ***is from the world****.* 1 John 2:16

* Desires of the flesh
* Desires of the eyes
* Pride of life

Every sin imaginable can be summed up in those three evils.

*Little children, keep yourselves from idols.* 1 John 5:21

The reason love for the world *excludes* love for God is that all that is in the world is *not* of God. In other words, it is just empty talk to say that you love God if you love what is not of God.

He then gives two arguments …

If you love the **world** … you will **perish** with the world.

*And the* ***world is passing away*** *along with its desires,* 1 John 2:17a

If you love **God** instead of the world … you will **live** forever.

*but whoever does the will of God* ***abides forever****.* 1 John 2:17b

You cannot **separate** love and obedience.

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.* John 14:15

*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.* 1 John 5:3

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.* 1 John 5:13

**Love** for God and **Faith** in Christ are two sides of our **salvation**.

Love for God makes His **service** a joy and overcomes the forces of **disobedience**.

*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—****our faith****.* 1 John 5:4

*It is faith that overcomes the world - it is faith that conquers disobedience and renders the commandments of God a joy rather than a burden.* John Piper

*Teacher, “which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall* ***love the Lord your God*** *with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”* Matthew 22:36–40

What if I do not feel this **love** for God?

There may be two answers:

You may not be **saved**.

*“It is possible* ***that you are a cultural Christian****. You may have developed patterns of religious talk and behavior because it is socially advantageous or because your parents or peers talked and acted this way. But you may never have experienced a deep change in your nature by the power of the Holy Spirit which gave birth to a stream of new love for God.”* John Piper

*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,* ***having the appearance of godliness****,* ***but denying its power****. Avoid such people.* 2 Timothy 3:1–5

**Give your life to Christ**. Cry out and ask for Him to show you your sin, your need. Ask him to give you faith to believe and live the life He died for you to have.

Your love may have grown **cool** and **weak**.

To the church at Ephesus, the angel told John to write this …

*But I have this against you, that* ***you have abandoned the love you had at first****. Remember therefore from where you have fallen;* ***repent****, and* ***do the works you did at first****.* Revelation 2:4–5a

*Indeed,* ***I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*** *For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ* Philippians 3:8

**Come back home**. Repent of your love for the world and cry out and ask for Him to show you your sin, your need. Ask Him to give you faith to believe and live the life He died for you to have.

*And* ***whatever you do****, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* Colossians 3:17

*So, whether you eat or drink, or* ***whatever you do****, do all to the glory of God.* 1 Corinthians 10:31

May we love God so supremely that we can say with the psalmist:

*Whom have I in heaven but you? And* ***there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you****. My flesh and my heart may fail, but* ***God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever****.* Psalm 73:25–26