

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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**The Lure of the World –
Our Spiritual Roadblocks**

Series from 1 John on Genuine / Confident Christianity

I JOHN 2:15-17

There are spiritual roadblocks set up by the enemy in this world! Satan longs to **detour** people, **distract** people, and **damn** people to hell. **Matthew 7:13-14** In the Cartoon “**Roadrunner and Coyote**” the Wile E. Coyote constantly sets up traps and roadblocks for the Roadrunner. Roadblocks hinders our progress, they cause us to take detours, and they say to us that it is undesirable to pass this way! John understood that the spiritual journey is not easy. He understood that there would be twists and turns, potholes, falling rocks, stormy weather, and few travelers. John declared that the love of the world hinders our spiritual life. Love for the world reveals our true spiritual condition. Do you love the world and the things in the world? Is your passion on this earth’s pleasures, places, and power?

In **V-14** John said, “...*the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*”

So, this morning we learn...

I. THE PRINCIPLE ABOUT THE WORLD. (Vs. 15)

A. The Strong Command Concerning Our Love. (Vs. 15a)

This is a commandment from the Lord! This is an imperative. We are not to love this world or the things of this world. This word is used 3 ways, for the **created** world we see, the **people** of the world, or the world **system**.

- ♦ **The created world should be admired by us** and should cause us to praise God for His creative power and beauty.
- ♦ **The world of people is what John spoke of in the gospel in John 3:16** “God so loved the world” (people).
- ♦ **The third use of the “world” is used in this verse where John exhorts us not to love the world.** This refers to the world’s system which is under the control of Satan. (**1 John 5:19**)

Sobering truth: The world will infiltrate us, infect us, and infatuate us if we are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

Then we see:

B. The Sobering Consequences Concerning Our Love. (Vs. 15b)
“If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

John moves from the strong command to the sobering consequences. When we love the world, we say to God that we love the created more than we love the Creator. We say that we love the temporal more than the eternal.

next we see...

II. THE POWER OF THE WORLD. (Vs. 16)

A. The World Draws Us Through Its Personal Ambition. (Vs. 16a)

“For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh” John lists 3 areas that cover the scope of one’s life and he says that all these are not of the Father. **Lust:** this word stresses the **lust, craving, longing, or desire for what is usually forbidden.**

B. The World Draws Us Through Its Passionate Alluring. (Vs. 16b)

“the lust of the eyes” Many people are drawn into sin by what they see. It all started with the first family. Satan tempted Eve and Eve gave into the lust of the eyes and she fell into sin. **Achan** coveted the gold and garments of the Babylonians. **David** lusted after Bathsheba.

C. The World Draws Us Through Its Prideful Attitudes. (Vs. 16c)

“and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” **Pride:** means ‘the empty display of life, the vain boasting of one’s lifestyle. This word means living in such a way as to impress other people.

III. THE PASSING OF THE WORLD. (Vs. 17)

A. The Surety of the Passing. (Vs. 17a)

“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it” **Passing:** means “to pass by, to depart, pass forth, or pass away.

B. The Security of the Promise. (Vs. 17b)

“but he who does the will of God abides forever.” John reveals that even though this world is going to pass away those who know Jesus will never pass away. Those who do the will of God will abide forever.

Will you be there with God for all eternity? Do you do the will of God in your life? The will of God for you is to be **saved!** You need to come to Jesus for salvation. The will of God for you is to be of **service!** When you are saved you will serve the Lord Jesus Christ. The will of God for you is to be **sanctified.**