

The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal waves of light. On the left side, the waves are a vibrant orange and yellow, resembling fire or a sunset. On the right side, the waves are a deep, glowing blue and purple, resembling a nebula or a starry field. The waves flow from left to right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

# *Eternal Life*

**A Study of 1 John**

# Sports Rules Trivia

- How far apart are the bases on a football field?
- How many home runs do you need to win in *Dutch Blitz*?
- Is “nothing but net” good or bad?
- Is a *goal* worth 1, 2, or 3 points?

***“What game are you playing?”***

## 1 John 2:15-17

- *What Game Are You Playing?*
  1. Loving the World Means Not Loving God
  2. What's in the World is Not From God
  3. The End of the World and the Will of God

# *Loving the World Means Not Loving God*

- “Do not love the world”
  - *World – cosmos* (order); as opposed to *chaos*
    - Sometimes *all of creation* (John 17:24)
    - Sometimes *the known or inhabited world* (Rom. 1:8)
    - Sometimes *mankind* (John 3:16)

# *Loving the World Means Not Loving God*

- “Do not love the world”
  - *World – cosmos* (order); as opposed to *chaos*
    - The system controlled by Satan (5:19)
    - *mankind organized in rebellion against God*
    - Any thought, attitude, desire, or practice that characterizes life apart from God
      - *Apathy* as well as *antagonism*

# *Loving the World Means Not Loving God*

- “Do not **love** the world”
  - **Love** – *agape* – involves the intellect and will
  - A choice; therefore he can say: *do not love it!*
  - To *not love the world* means to reject its outlook, goals, solutions, entertainments, etc.
  - “Do not be conformed to this world” (Rom. 12:2)

# *Loving the World Means Not Loving God*

- “Do not love ... the things of the world”
  - Not *stuff* or material things but anything that comes from or supports the world system
  - Attitudes, perspectives, and solutions that differ from God’s (cf. James 3:13-18)
    - E.g. - 1 Cor. 6:1-8

***Why should we not love the world?***

## *Loving the World Means Not Loving God*

- “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him”
  - Does *of* mean *from* or *for*?
  - “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is **hostility toward God**? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)



## *Loving the World Means Not Loving God*

- “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him”
  - You cannot love both God and *the world that is against God* at the same time
  - “No one can serve two masters” (Matt. 6:24)
  - Different games -> different *rules*

## *What's in the World is Not From God*

- “For all that is in the world ... is not from the Father, but is from the world”
  - Not the *physical* world (Gen. 1:1, 31)
    - Given for our enjoyment (1 Tim. 4:3-5)
  - God did not directly create the things that are diametrically opposed to Himself
  - What is *in the world*?

# *What's in the World is Not From God*

## *1. the lust of the flesh*

- Not (necessarily) only big, ugly, *carnal* sins
- *The* lust (singular)
- What does the flesh desire most?
  - To live life apart from God and His ways (Rom. 1:18-32; cf. Gal. 5:17; Eph. 2:1-4)
  - No rules & no *bad* consequences

# *What's in the World is Not From God*

## *1. the lust of the flesh*

- Live by its own rules (Rom. 8:5-8)
  - Must distort/ignore God's word (Gen. 3:1)
- Alleviate guilt & shame!
  - Distort *sin* and *righteousness* (1 John 1:5-10)
  - Blame-shifting; distractions; medications; invent false gods and religions

# *What's in the World is Not From God*

## *2. the lust of the eyes*

- May refer to desires aroused by sight -> *I see, then I want* (cf. Gen. 3:6)
- May refer to *shallow perception* – not seeing the real value of things, as God sees them
- May refer to mental/heart sins as opposed to physical acts (cf. Matt. 5:27-30)

# *What's in the World is Not From God*

## *2. the lust of the eyes*

- What do the eyes desire most?
  - Light to see by
- Just as physical eyes need light, so spiritual eyes need wisdom/knowledge
  - “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path” (Ps. 119:105)

# *What's in the World is Not From God*

## *2. the lust of the eyes*

- God is *Light* (1 John 1:5), and He shares His *Light* for us to see by (John 1:9; cf. Prov. 4)
- Men love darkness (John 3:19) and seek other sources (see Deut. 18:9-14; 2 Tim. 4:3-4)
- “every man did what was right **in his own eyes**” (Judges 17:6; 21:25)

# *What's in the World is Not From God*

## *3. the boastful pride of life*

- *Pride: arrogance, boasting, showiness*
- *Bios: life (1 Tim. 2:2) or livelihood (Mk. 12:44)*
- *Arrogance from one's station in life?*
- *Pride in one's possessions?*
- *Empty boasting, exaggeration, pretension to impress others with material things?*



# *What's in the World is Not From God*

## *3. the boastful pride of life*

- Confidence/security in the things that sustain physical life (Luke 12:13-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19)
- Satisfied with the physical only (John 6:26-71)
- Disregarding God (Deut. 8:11-20; Prov. 30:7-9; Hos. 13:4-8)

# *The End of the World and the Will of God*

- “The world is passing away”
  - It is transient, on its way out
  - *Present tense*: it is happening now
  - *Middle voice*: doing it to itself
  - Anything anti-God (*Life*) is self-destructive
- “and also its lusts” – includes those who follow them (*but* – sets up contrast with *the one*)

# *The End of the World and the Will of God*

- “the one who does the will of God lives forever”
  - *Lives forever: abides/remains into the age*
  - What is *the will of God*?
    - Whatever He says we should do
      - Those who love God will do it (2:3-6, 10)
    - Includes sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3)
    - Maybe suffering (1 Pet. 3:17; 4:19; 5:10)

## So What?

- The world has its set of *rules* (Eph. 2:1-3)
- God has called us out of the world and into His kingdom, which has its own *rules* (Eph. 5:1-5)
- *Which game are you playing?*
  - No middle ground: trying to play both is choosing the world over God (James 4:4)

## So What?

- Do you know God's word well enough to discern between His *rules* and the world's? (Rom. 12:2)
  - Values? Entertainment? Theology?
- Are you trying to apply the world's *anti-God* solutions to your problems?
- Are you willing to ask God to show you which you love more? (2:15b)

For **the grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14)