The Love God Hates

Read: 1 John 2:12-17

Main Idea: To love God with all your heart means letting go of worldly attachments and finding true satisfaction in Christ alone.

Key Verses: "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." **(1 John 2:15)**

Key Principles

- Because our forgiveness rests on the name and finished work of Jesus rather than on our performance, we can bring our failures to God in honest confession instead of fear.
- Every generation in the church has a part to play, as mature believers model a deep knowledge of Christ and younger believers bring strength and zeal to the fight.
- We overcome the evil one not by willpower but by trusting the work of Christ when Satan accuses us and holding fast to the Word of God when Satan tempts us.
- Worldliness is not measured by a human list of taboos but by asking whether our affections and choices line up with the will of God.
- Even good gifts become idols when we love them more than the Giver, so we must regularly examine what our hearts are reaching for.
- Since the world and its desires are already fading, a life spent doing the will of God is the only investment that will last forever.

Discussion

1. Why does it matter that our sins are forgiven "on account of his name" rather than on account of our own efforts? How should that truth shape the way you handle guilt over past sin?
2. What does it look like for a believer to grow from simply knowing about God to knowing Him deeply as Father? Who in your life has modeled that kind of mature faith?
3. How does having the Word of God abide in you equip you to stand against the evil one? What helps keep it living in you?
4. How would you explain the difference between the "world" God loves in John 3:16 and the "world" John commands us not to love in 1 John 2:15?
5. Which of the three desires in verse 16 (the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, or the pride of life) pulls at you most right now, and why?
6. In light of verse 17, what is one worldly attachment you need to loosen this week? What specific step will you take to pursue the will of God in its place?

Prayer

- Pray for hearts to treasure Christ above every passing pleasure of this world.
- Pray for:
  - Our church to stand firm in the assurance of the gospel.
  - Grace to turn from worldly desires and do God's will.
  - Boldness to show a fading world the lasting hope of Christ.

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I.	**Treasure what you have.**		**2:12-14**
	1.	Remember your pardon.	2:12
	2.	Remember your Father.	2:13a, 14a-b
	3.	Remember your victory.	2:13b, 14c
II.	**Reject what will pass.**		**2:15-17**
	1.	Choose your love.	2:15
	2.	Check your desires.	2:16
	3.	Conform your will.	2:17

NEXT WEEK:
Abide in Him
1 John 2:18-27