

Week 4 Study Guide - 1st John 2:12-17

Scripture

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.

15 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. 16 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. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Questions

Can you remember the first concert you went to? How did it go?

John writes verses 12-14 like they are a poem. He talks about three people groups in the poem. What are the three people groups? What do the different people groups represent? (Answers at the bottom under 1) What group do you think you fall into? Why?

What is the core message of what John keeps reminding all of those groups? (Answers at the bottom under 2) Why do you think that this poem falls right before John's correction not love the world? (My opinion at the bottom under 3)

In some areas of the Bible God calls us to love the world, in other areas he calls us to not love the world. Is that a contradiction? (Answer at bottom under 4) According to verse 16 what does it mean to love the world? Do you have any areas where you love the world, or you have the me first mentality? Do you have any areas where you give into the desires of the flesh? (You only do what feels good) What about the desires of the eyes? (You see something you like and try to take it)

Devotional

As a kid I won tons of awards! Many of them were football awards, others were for school. My parents ended up putting a couple shelves above my beds and we put all the awards up there. We called it the shrine of Brett. Eventually I moved out and all the awards were put in a box. I ran into the box that all my awards were put into about a month ago. As I was going through it I realized that I had forgotten I even received most of these awards. Some of them were chipped,

others of them had been ruined by water damage. When I won most of these awards it was the highlight of my week. Now they are almost useless to me.

John tells us that everything is going to fade away that is not a part of God's kingdom. Just like my awards don't mean a whole lot to me anymore, so will most of our accomplishments later in life. If I am honest with you, a few hundred years from now nobody will probably even know who you are. Due to that, John is urgently calling us not to love the world. According to John, the evil desires that you feel inside, the evil desires that you have from looking at things you should not, and the me first mentality will get you nothing. The only thing that lasts is God's will. Don't allow the "me first" love of the world to impact how you live your life. Instead, allow the love of the Father to impact how you live!

Action Steps

Think - In what ways do you love the world? Another way to think of this is in what areas do you have the me first mentality?

Prayer - Ask God to expose areas in your life where you have the me first mentality.

Act - Jesus was the greatest example of what it looked like to be a servant. He had every right to expect others to serve Him, but he laid those rights down to serve others. Read about Jesus washing His disciples feet in John 13. Think of one way this week where you can serve like Jesus did, and then go do it. Find a way to lay down that me first mentality of the world to serve someone.

Answers

1. The three people groups are the children, young men, and fathers. They represent different stages of Christian maturity. The children are the people who are new to following Jesus or are not very spiritually mature. The young men (or young women) are those who have been following Jesus for a while, but not for a super long time. The fathers are those who have been following Jesus for a very long time and are spiritually mature.

2. John reminds all the people groups of their relationship with Jesus and how Jesus loves them.

3. He wants to remind the people who they are before He corrects and calls to holiness.

4. We love the people of the world, but not the me first system of the world.