

“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.” 1 John 2:15 NLT

lectio // 1 John 2:12-17

This should NOT be confused with loving life and the beauty God created in this world. John defines what he is writing about here: “For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.” Here John uses this greek work for love - ἀγαπάω, agapaó - I love, wish well to, take pleasure in, long for; denotes the love of reason, esteem. This immediately reminds me of the places where God is possessively jealous. It stems from Exodus 34:14, “you shall have no other Gods.” It’s a relational, covenant kind of jealousy - <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/God,-Jealous>. Here’s the point, God will not share himself with anyone or anything that is fake or phony - like IDOLS or liars like Satan himself. These “from the world” promises, feelings or appetites are fleeting, temporary at best and lead away from the light and down that path of darkness that John wrote about it chapter one of this letter. So, yeah, it’s choosing: God or worldly fakery. He won’t share your affection for another, would you? Anyone that’s even remotely been in love knows how this works. The deepest part of our humanity, where real love resides, doesn’t like being betrayed by lies! God is just very upfront about it.

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Dad,

I don’t blame you! I don’t want a cheap love that costs nothing or is de-valued by lies, deceit and unfaithfulness. Your love for me, for us, is true and pure. I am grateful that you are jealous about that love towards me and from me. I do not want to share that deepest part of me with the fraudster qualities of this world and the cheap thrills it offers as it masquerades as love. Thank you.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root