



DATE	October 9, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Loving God or the World
SERIES	Everyone wants to fit in. And there's nothing wrong with that, but there are ways God wants His followers to stand out from the world around them. The first-century church dealt with this same tension, so John wrote them a letter, 1 John, describing the difference between true followers of Jesus and counterfeit ones. So, what's true, and what's false?

1. Did you know avocados have more potassium than bananas? What else have you learned since Pastor David has been preaching from **1 John**? We are never too young/old to learn from the Word of God. Recall the last study you participated in from **1 John**. We are never too young/old to study the Word of God.
2. How do you believe the world defines *true followers of Jesus* and *counterfeit ones*? Answer from the world's point of view. Be as honest as possible, even if it means stepping on your own toes.
3. Read **1 John 1-2:11**. Review as a group the last two week's messages in light of the text you just read, *Walking in the Light* and *Obey God's Commands*. Now read **1 John 2:12-17** to begin digging into the truths of the passage, *Loving God or the World*.
4. Do you have memories of family meetings from your childhood? What legacy have either of your grandfathers left for their families? If you are a grandparent, what legacy do you hope to pass onto to your family members? Walk through the three audiences *Grandpa John* is speaking to at the *family meeting*. Where are you in the family meeting? On a scale of 1-10, explain how spiritually open are you with others and why.
5. Share the charges Pastor David issued to the young men (under 40) and to the fathers (over 40). If you are a young man do you have an older man pouring into your spiritual life? If you are an older man do you have a younger man you are spiritually pouring into? Discuss the benefits of the younger openly receiving from the older and the older willingly pouring into the younger. How does the enemy lose when the younger and the older are involved with each other's spiritual growth? Read **1 Peter 5:8**.
6. Read **1 John 2:15-17**. *Don't love the world nor the things of the world* is a command not a suggestion, yet many live like it's a suggestion. Explain how many live with feet in both camps. Compare **Matthew 6:19-24** with **Matthew 22:37-40**. How does love for the world violate the greatest commandment? What alternative does Jesus propose in **Matthew 6:19-24**? What steps will you take to love God more than the world or the things in the world? Explain how **Proverbs 4:23** speaks to *loving God*.
7. God provides hope when we fail to walk in the light of His love. Read **1 John 1:9; 1 John 2:1-2; John 3:16**. Forgiveness has the power to remove the burden of regret and remorse. How have you known the power of forgiveness in your life? What is your major stumbling block for living the forgiveness you have received as a son/daughter of Christ? What would embracing full forgiveness mean for your tomorrows?
8. Discuss the *Symptoms of loving the world vs Symptoms of loving God*. Reference **1 John 2:16-17**. List the three loves of a *true follower of Jesus*. Discuss active ways to live as a true follower of Jesus more affectively in your sphere of influence. Read **2 Corinthians 10:5, Romans 12:2, and Titus 3:3-11**. God's Word defends, and further defines, God's Word.

Closing: Ask the Holy Spirit who is alive within you to reveal where you can refocus, realign, or readjust your loves to more strongly represent Jesus Christ whom you follow. Then, as the Holy Spirit alerts you be obedient out of love for Jesus Christ that the world may know you're a true follower.