



Sermon Discussion Guide

1 John: Searching for Certainty

1 John 2:15-17

Ronnie Garcia, September 29, 2019

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Read the Scripture printed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

1. Ronnie suggests that the Church has historically misunderstood John's heart when he calls believers to not love the world, and this is because we have lost our vision of the Trinitarian God as a Host—imprecisely elevating God's roles as Judge and Healer. How is seeing God as a Host helpful for understanding God's heart?
2. What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

WE MUST WORK PASSIONATELY TO FILL OUR HEARTS WITH THE LOVE OF THE FATHER

1. Ronnie noted that there are two very different uses of the word "world". Sometimes the word "world" means the created and material universe, and sometimes it means the pervasive evil system in the world that seduces people into finding joy, satisfaction, and security in the creation itself. How is this second definition of the word "world" related to the first of the 10 Commandments?
2. Jesus says, "If you love me, you will obey my commandments." Loving God is more than just emotions. It is about loving what He loves. God so loved the world. What are some of the ways in our lives that we can love the world that pleases the Father?

WE MUST WORK PASSIONATELY TO NOT FILL OUR HEARTS WITH THE LOVE OF THE WORLD

1. Ronnie shared an illustration about a judge who loves the law, but who had a large investment in a company that is being litigated in her court. Can she rule against the company represents her own wealth? Could you rule against yourself and lose your fortune and perceived security? Where are areas in your life where we have divided hearts—between the Lord and something in the world that we perceive to give us joy, satisfaction, or security?
2. In v16, John uses the word "desire" twice. Ronnie explained that our love for the world is aroused by our "desires" (lit. "over" desires). Can you identify something (like an ordinary desire) in your

life that you demand be the source of joy and satisfaction? What is one thing, that if it was taken away, you would be lost?

Step 3: Final Reflections

1. In v17 John says that God's will endures forever, while temporary desires pass away. Ronnie suggests that the way to love this world is by longing for the next. What is one practical way this week that you can direct your heart to eternity?
2. How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
3. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?