THE LOVE OF THE WORLD

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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Topic:
THE LOVE OF THE WORLD
Text: 1 John 2:15–16

Prayer
Lord we thank You this evening for the gift of life You have given us upto now. May you come and teach us your words using your servant and open our spiritual ears so that we put into action in Jesus Christ Mighty name. Amen

Introduction
Tonight, we will be treating a very important topic that has a lot to do with our Christian race. We all know that we are all here on earth as pilgrims and we are going home someday. But we have to choose where we want our home to be. It is unfortunate that some people have chosen this world as their destination, thinking it is the final one, and they do not want to leave it because of one reason or another. But tonight, we will check three things that will make us take our focus off this world and place it where it should be.

Bible Text: 1 John 2:15–16
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 lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Study
I believe we all know that hate is the opposite of love, therefore let's see what "to hate" means. It means a great dislike for someone or something. But today, we are treating **the love of the world** Are we supposed to hate the world when Jesus Christ said

we should even love our enemies? Of course, the world in this context is not the human beings around us; the Lord will give us more understanding as we go on. Please follow me carefully. In many instances, the Bible mentions the world and even goes to the point of saying we should not love the world. According to our Bible text for tonight: **1 John 2:15–16 (KJV)** "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

The word **world** in this Bible text goes beyond the physical aspect of it. Whenever the Bible mentions the world, it could mean the affairs of the world. We have people of the world who are known to be unbelievers; they are **OF** the world, but Christians are **IN** the world, not OF the world. The world we are to hate, and not love therefore, is the affairs of it—the ungodly aspects that refuse to bend/yield to the knowledge of Christ. The scriptures say clearly that if you love the world or the things in it, you do not love the Father. Please note that once the love of the Father is not in you, you cannot fear Him; if you do not fear Him, you cannot obey Him; and if you do not obey Him, then you will certainly walk out of His will. If you are out of the will of God, you know what that means: **YOU ARE LOST.**

We will not be lost, in Jesus Christ's name.

The Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, which simply means that anybody who does not fear God has not even started his/her journey to wisdom. In other words, this means the person is foolish. Before one can fear God, he/she must love God and hate the world—love what God loves, and hate what God hates. Nevertheless, **1 John 2:16 (KJV)** says: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of

the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." In this verse, the world is classified into three parts. I must tell you that if you are able to overcome in these three areas, you will certainly make heaven, because there is nothing in this world that is not under one of the categories mentioned here. So, after you are saved (confessed Jesus Christ and washed in His blood), take note of these three things:

1. **The lust of the flesh**
2. **The lust of the eyes**
3. **The pride of life**

These are all the things that rule the world, which we must not love and we should not be entangled by any of them. I will try to break them down as the Holy Spirit leads; if we do not finish today, we will continue next time by God's grace.

First of all,

What is lust?
Lust is an intense or extreme desire for something. It could also mean an untamed or uncontrolled desire for something. See, if there is anything in this world that you cannot control yourself from going the extra mile to get, then you have a problem, and that problem is lust. It can be in the form of a sexual urge, or quest for something. Please also note that anything or anyone you yield yourself to obey becomes your master.

1**. THE LUST OF THE FLESH**
We all know what the flesh signifies; it signifies pleasure—anything that gives you pleasure outside the things of God, most especially sexual intercourse. I know some people will be adjusting themselves just because I mentioned sex, believing the subject is too sacred to be talked about. Whereas, this issue

of sex is one of the major problems facing the Church of God in this dispensation, not only in the world. Things have gotten this bad because the subject has been treated with levity, which has caused more harm than good. Whether you like it or not, **SEX** is one of the major aspects of human life that gives pleasure, and it comes with an urge. I want you all to understand that the urge for sex is not only felt by non-virgins or the unchaste. Virgins and the chaste feel the urge to have sex too. It is not because they want to feel so, but because that is how we were programmed as humans. However, it is not for you and me to choose whether we will have the urge for sex or not, but it is for us to choose what we want to do with that urge.

As an unmarried person, will you yield yourself to the urge or control it? The step you take when you feel the urge matters a lot. Will you follow the direction of your erection? Many people have satisfied their urge in wrong ways, and this has cost them a lot of loss, both physically and spiritually. The excessive desire for pleasure derived from sex—which is the lust of the flesh—has made a lot of pastors sleep with their choir mistresses. Many choristers are sleeping with each other, even under the staircase of their church. Ushers too are not left out; they usher half-naked ladies into the church and then run after them after service under the pretense of follow-up.

Most people's "duty" in churches today is to follow up young unmarried ladies—ladies who live alone. As a guy, you begin following them up... Oga didn't follow guys up o; it's that light-skinned, flashy lady he is following up, all in a bid to get under her skirt. Please, just follow me—I must talk about this tonight. If I call one or two ladies here now to say something about those who have made sexual advances toward them, at least 60% of those advances would be from the church. Ah... In fact, many might be from brothers who are believed to be

"spirikoko". Hmmm... due to the lust of the flesh and the pleasure it brings, many brothers have caused "spirikoko" sisters to have abortions. Pastors now speak in tongues on top of sisters during counseling. You, that brother/pastor who counsels ladies in your bedroom...continue o; I will not tell you to stop. Just because of your flesh, you want to destroy your soul. A maximum of 1 hour of pleasure—of which I am sure that if you try it that long, it is the elders of your church who will carry your body out of Sister Grace's room. You now want to damn your soul for life... Do you know what it means to burn for eternity? It's a pity. Well, so it won't seem like I am one-sided, ladies too now lure guys. In fact, a majority of the ladies who are slept with are the cause of it.

You go to church in tight mini-skirts and sit right in front of the pastor with your legs spread wide as if they need fresh air, and then you shout, "My pastor wants to sleep with me!" Permit me to tell you that your head is not correct. It can only be correct when you let the light of the gospel flash through your heart to transform you. I want you to know that sexual pleasure derived from the flesh exists in both genders, not just in guys. Many sisters can't do without having sex; they have been following the dictates of their flesh. In fact, I have heard of unmarried ladies who cannot go a day without sex. Some have gotten into masturbation. The use of sex toys/vibrators is now rampant even among our "spirikoko" brothers and sisters—just because of pleasure. It's not only sex that gives pleasure; even dances do.

All these satanic dance steps— Gbe Body, Gbese, Zazu, Azonto, Shaku Shaku, Zanku, and the like... Many act like saints when going to church, but in their rooms, they begin to perform wonders with these dance steps. Is it to talk about the worldly songs which's lyrics they change and claim to sing to the Almighty God of which the Lord will never accept from them. Worldly songs also give pleasure. Your flesh gets pleasured when

you begin to sing worldly songs. Some people cannot allow anyone to connect their phone to the church speaker before a program starts, because if they do... Ahhhh, Hmmm... Let me not say anything more. The pastor will come out of his office in amazement over whose phone is playing those songs, just because of how worldly they are. Please note that everything I have been saying falls under the **lust of the flesh. HATE THEM.**

2. LUST OF THE EYES

Lust of the eyes in this passage simply means craving for what can be seen. Do you know that if you are able to control your eyes well, you will sin less? Because whatever the eye sees, it passes to the mind for processing, and then action follows. Not only the eyes, but even the ears and the nose. You might wonder what the nose can cause, but it can cause a lot. Those of us whose noses are sharp can perceive Jollof rice being cooked three streets away. Some people might not be aware of a party happening five streets away, but they can smell the aroma of the food, especially Jollof rice. Immediately they smell it, some will put on their best clothes and head toward the direction of the aroma, which can lead to the sin of gluttony. That can be classified under the first point mentioned.

Let me not deviate too much.

Lust of the eye can cause many things... It is the eye that sees a beautiful car and craves it, which can lead to money rituals, embezzlement, fraud (Yahoo Yahoo), forgery, stealing, and many other things. Have you ever seen a blind man lusting after a house, saying, "**How I wish I could get this beautiful house"?** It is not possible because he cannot see. That is how we ought to be blind to the things of this world. In most cases, lust starts from the eyes. It is the eye that sees a naked person in the street and sends the image to the mind (the CPU) to process; that is when

we see the result. That is why the way you dress as a lady or a guy is very important to God and to everyone around you. We Christians are not to dress in a way that will make the opposite sex lust after us when they set their eyes upon us. Remember what the scripture says: **Romans 14:13b** "...that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."You must not be the reason a sister or brother falls into sin. I heard a story some time ago about people queuing to board a bus in a school environment. In the long run, a guy standing behind a lady started discharging because of what she wore. It wasn't long before the lady noticed and slapped him. Please, let's look at this matter well: was it the guy alone who deserved a slap? Take for instance, if the guy standing behind her were blind, would he have found himself in such a messy situation?

That is why we cannot say God does not care about how we look. Even as He cares so much about the appearance of His children, many have failed Him because they have caused a lot of brothers/sisters to go to hell for lusting after them, which causes Christ a bleeding heart. Please, I would like you to listen to what I am telling you tonight and put it into practice. Be very, very careful of what you look at with your eyes. I think I have given a lecture on that before. **BE BLIND**—what did I say? **BE BLIND** to the sensual things around you! If you have a problem with lust and want to overcome it, please **BE BLIND.**

If you are not blind, I assure you that no amount of fasting and prayer can help you. Trust me, you cannot be free... You can sleep on a mountain for 10 years, but if you are not blind to those erotic images around you, you will still go back to Shechem. I am telling you now: it was when I decided to be blind that the lust in my life started dying. I fasted and prayed, and it didn't work; at times I felt frustrated. But when I became blind to all the rubbish of this world, lust found its way out of my life gradually. The lust

of the eyes will always project evil thoughts into your mind... When you see a naked person, look away immediately and do not look back. A force will tell you to look, but do not agree with it. Tell that force that you won't be paid a dime for looking again. You see, one of the major instruments the devil is using in this generation to drag believers to hell is nudity. There are erotic images and sounds everywhere; everything is now sensual. Do you know that a lady who puts on a skirt above her knees looks sensual? Has anybody noticed that? A guy who puts on a tight shirt that reveals a broad chest or six-pack looks sensual—has any lady noticed that? Anything tight that reveals the shape of your body can make people crave after you, and these things are sins.

We ought not to make others fall into sin. Let's be our brother's keeper. Because of things the eyes can see, many have gone out of their way to kill humans for rituals, and many have forged signatures just to get money through fraud. Now they even put a "plus" in front of Yahoo ("G-boy plus"). All these happen just because someone somewhere could not simply choose to be blind. There is more to the lust of the eyes; that is why you notice that anything with sexual content sells faster. Even on TV and radio, they use sensual voices just to catch people's attention.

Consider a research analysis on the rate of sexual scenes on television since 1998:
1998: 56% of shows contained sexual content
2002: 64%
2005: 70% (averaging 7 sexual scenes per hour)

This research monitored channels like ABC, CBS, FOX, WB, PBS, TNT, USA, HBO, and Lifetime. From this, you can see that the devil has taken over the media. From 2005 till date, think about how much that percentage has increased! Some time ago, I

thought about what is happening now and resolved that if nothing is done, people will start walking around naked by 2050. It is painful that Adam and Eve hid themselves from the face of God because they were naked, but people in this generation now go to seek the Lord's face naked, even in the church, not minding that they are spreading lust. Please, let us make a resolution tonight not to make people sin through the way we look.

It might not be a sin to show a friend something you just bought, but if you know that friend is the jealous type, keep it out of his/her sight; it can stop someone from getting an unnecessary headache or falling into sin. Let's lead a pure life... Let's be blind to the world. The videos and pictures on your phone and laptop have a lot to do with your spiritual state. If you must be blind to the things that cause sin in your life, start with your phone by deleting anything that can aggravate the lust of the eyes. **DO NOT BE THE REASON WHY SOMEONE SOMEWHERE FALLS INTO SIN.**

3. THE PRIDE OF LIFE

We all know what pride is. The dictionary defines it as a feeling that you are more important or better than other people. In many parts of Scripture, God's reaction toward pride is clearly stated. God does not want us, His children, to be proud for any reason. That is why He says in **James 4:6: "**But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."Although the pride of life as treated tonight covers a broad scope, I hope the Holy Spirit will help us simplify it for our understanding. As seen in the verse above, God hates anything that gives itself greater importance than the knowledge of Him, whether in this world or beyond. The pride of life can take any form—such as rating highly the position you occupy, the house you've built, the cars you've bought, or your achievements as a whole. The truth is that God is never moved by

whatever material things you have, because He is not poor that He should seek your help. But He is concerned when you exalt anything above Him. That is why He says in **Matthew 23:12 (KJV)** "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Showing pride makes it look as though you are competing with God, and He will surely bring such a person low. Children of God must be very careful with pride, because it leads to destruction faster than almost anything else. Pride starts in the heart, and if it is not quickly dealt with, it will manifest outwardly and continue that way. The danger is that it reaches a point where the person no longer sees it as pride, but as "ego."

That is why, just looking at some people, you can feel that element of pride in them—right from how they speak and relate with others. Some will even tell you that you cannot talk to them that way because you are not on the same level. See, the moment people start telling you that your ego is too much, please run to God! There is no such thing as "ego" in the sight of God; it is classified as pride. What material possession do you have that makes you feel you have "arrived"? There are people who will never help their neighbors with their car, even when it is raining, always making excuses like **"My car will get dirty."**

They place so much importance on material things and boast about them. Is there anything in this world worth boasting about? There is nothing you have today that has not been acquired by someone before. There is no achievement you reach today that someone else hasn't reached before. The position you occupy and brag about was occupied by someone before you. Oga, Madam, just calm down! Everything is ephemeral; that is why the Preacher says, "Vanity upon vanity, all is vanity." Pride has kept many rich people from drinking water in the homes of their poorer relatives—not because those people are dirty, but

because the rich have rated themselves so high that they cannot imagine relating with the poor. Because of pride, you find it hard to apologize when you do wrong. You are at fault and you know it, but you choose to stay quiet because you feel you are too big to say "sorry" to a young boy, girl, housemaid, or nanny. Do you know that pride can lead someone to hell? Nobody who is proud will enter heaven. Jesus Christ, who was God in the flesh, was humble and lowly to the core. But you, because you feel you are the head of the family, you offend your wife and refuse to apologize or ask for forgiveness. And you, as a wife, you let pride keep you from being fully submissive to your husband.

Do you know that many friendships, relationships, and families might not have broken up today if pride were absent—if someone had simply thrown their pride into the gutter and apologized? That exaggerated sense of self-importance can cause more havoc than you think. Because you think you are better than everyone else in your group, when you are called upon to do something, you allow pride to take over and start thinking that without you, nothing will get done. Ah, you are deceiving yourself! It takes God less than a second to replace you. No human is indispensable. You had better be humble and see service as a privilege.

Do you know these things are very common in the Church of God today? You see elders saying the pastor should watch how he addresses them because they are not his age-mates—right inside the church o... Many people are proud and do not know it because they do not constantly check and evaluate their lives. Many people have been asking God for things and He isn't answering, simply because He is looking at them from afar with their shoulder pads of pride. The Bible says in **Proverbs 4:23** "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Keep it with all diligence! Do you know that when some

people are invited to a church to minister—whether to preach, sing, act, or play instruments—they will not sit inside to listen to other people's ministrations? They prefer to sit outside and chat because they believe they are better than everyone else, which is why they were invited. They see themselves as the alpha and omega of the program. In fact, they feel they are beyond learning and cannot learn anything new from anyone else.

THIS IS PRIDE!

If you do this, it is very bad; you have to change. Stop feeling too important! God does not want that; He wants us to be humble. **2 Corinthians 10:5** says: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" Let every of your thoughts be subject to obeying Christ. All these things we have been talking about should be hated by Christians. They are the things of the world; they are not of the Father. God does not want us to participate in them, nor does He want any element of them in us. He desires a holy and pure Church. In Him, we must strive to be different.

As I round up for tonight, remember that **hating the world is tantamount to loving God.** For anyone who does not hate the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I pray the Lord gives us more understanding, in Jesus' name.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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