

The First Commandment

1 John 2.12-17

Focus: reassuring us of God's redemptive work for us and calling us to love Him - not the world - as a result.

Resources:

John Piper has some helpful sermon manuscripts on 1 John 2 here:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/1-john/2/messages>

and here is another helpful sermon with some diagnostic q's at the end:

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-9-choose-your-love-world-or-father-1-john-215-17>



NW's 2018 Priority

Bought: we belong to Christ!

we want to ...

- be captivated by the truth that we belong to Christ, that we are His people and...
- be in awe of this privilege...
- respond in willing obedience...

Discussion:

- Read 2.12-17. Why do you think John belabors his writing motivations so (6 times!) in verses 12-14? Which of those motives is most significant to you? (forgiveness of sins, knowing God, overcoming the evil one)
- In v. 14, overcoming the evil one is linked to abiding in the Word. How ought daily abiding look in your life?
- Verse 15 contains the first command John gives in this letter. From what you know of the setting of 1 John, why would this command be first? How fitting is this for a "first commandment" for us in our day?
- Verse 16 paints a very modern picture of the world! How do you see this trio of sins showing up in our day? Take them one by one and then have folks share which one (and in what form) most presses them to love the world more instead of God (you may want to do this last part broken into men and women)
- Spend time in prayer for one another regarding stoking your love for God (based on v. 12-14) and starving your love for the world (v. 16).

Missional Opps! Challenge your group to love a neighbor well at one of these events!

- Scout a decent couple of movies and take a neighbor to the **Raleigh Road Drive-in** in Henderson! <http://www.raleighroaddrivein.com>

- Take a neighbor to **Friday Night on White**, Takes place along South White Street on the second Friday of each month from

April through September. The free concerts run from 6-9 p.m. and feature a variety of premier local bands.