

# The “Lust” of First John

1 John 2:15-17

## Introduction:

- A. Two senses in which we can love the world.
  - 1. A good sense like Jesus loved world (Jno. 3:16).
  - 2. A bad sense which involves lust.
- B. “Lust” is desire “inconsistent with the will of God.” – Vines
- C. “Lust” must not characterize children of God (1 Pet. 1:13-16)
- D. “Lust” wars against the soul (1 Pet. 2:11)
- E. Notice some characteristics of lust suggested by our text.

## Discussion:

### I. Lust Abuses Natural Desires.

- A. Lust of flesh and eyes misuse legitimate bodily mechanisms.
  - 1. God gave bodily and emotional mechanisms needed for earthly life.
  - 2. Gave laws to check and direct these – not mere beasts (2 Pet. 2:12-14).
- B. Lust of flesh and eyes causes one to satisfy desires without will of God.
  - 1. Those who live by “bread alone” satisfy by any means (Mt. 4:4; 2 Thess 3:8-12; Eph 4:28).
  - 2. Those who live by word of God satisfy God in satisfying needs (cf. Heb. 13:4)
  - 3. Those who live by word do not invite lust (1 Tim 2:9-10; Mt. 5:28; Rom. 6:12-23).

### II. Lust Appeals to Human Pride (“pride of life”).

- A. Souls are sold for “honor,” “glory,” “power,” and “prestige”.
- B. Sins sold under false labels of “distinction,” “respect,” “sophistication,” and “culture.”
- C. Sins excused because we think it unthinkable to forgo temporal benefits.

### III. Lust Is an Exercise in Futility (v. 17).

- A. Because of the transitory nature of earthly things.
  - 1. Suppose you obtained every object of lust – how long can you keep it?
  - 2. Suppose you enjoyed every pleasure the world offers – How long? (Cf. Heb. 11:25)
  - 3. Suppose you got all power, prestige, etc possible – How long will it last.
- B. Because lust knows no complete satisfaction (cf. Jas. 4:1-2)
- C. Because only “he that doth th will of God abides forever.”
  - 1. Have you done God’s will for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
  - 2. Have you done God’s will to return as a backslider?
  - 3. Are you doing God’s will as a Christian?

## Conclusion:

- A. Let us “love not the world....”
- B. Let us prepare to live forever.