

## 1 John Series

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### SESSION #16 1/26/14

#### The Purpose: Am I Following Trusting the Strategy of Envelopment to Resist the Cosmos?

#### I. Review & Introduction: (Slide 2)

1:1–4	Prologue—call to sharing eternal life with God through the apostles
1:5–2:11	Preamble—daily interacting with the Triune God
	1:5–2:2 fellowship with God the Father at His Holy Integrity
	2:3–8 fellowship with God the Son at His Commandments
	2:9–11 fellowship with God the Holy Spirit at His work in believers
2:12–27	Purpose—call to resist the doomed world system and its Christ-denying teachers
	2:12–14 resistance begins with confidence in the Spirit’s work in one’s life
	2:15–17 resistance utilizes the strategic envelopment of the world system being accomplished by the Father
	2:18–27 resistance adheres to the Spirit-confirmed, once-for-all time apostolic doctrine that renders innovation unnecessary and contradictory

**John’s prologue & preamble** set the stage for his main point in our section 2:12–27. (Slide 3)

Fellowship with the Triune God = basic truth & operating doctrine

(1) with the Father: check with our personal, private relationship—living in reality or in fantasy land?

(2) with the Son: tied to the Bible as God’s historic revelation through ancient Israel and Jesus Christ. Can’t know Christ unless we know Him through the gospels and epistles—our only contact with Him.

(3) with the Holy Spirit: our interpersonal relationship with His work in other believers in the hostile world

#### II. **John’s Main Point**: to exhort believers to maintain the fellowship of eternal life while in a hostile environment = call to resistance

A. Resistance begins with confidence in the Spirit’s work in one’s life 2:12–14 (Slide 4)  
Three viewpoints of fellowship rather than stages of growth since John repeatedly refers the entire congregation as “little children.”

- the child-like fellowship with God the Father in 1:5–2:2
- the father-like experience in coming to know God the Son as the One who has been with God from the beginning in 2:3–8
- the warrior-age experience of believing against the deceptions of the world and warriors “hang together” reminiscent of 2:9–11.

B. We must understand God’s *Strategy of Envelopment* of the entire world system, doomed as it is by its alienation from God (2:15–17)

“love” = allegiance

What is the “world”? [Greek: *kosmos*] (Slide 5)

There is an ethical order, a systematic structure, to human civilization.

- (1) Garden of Eden fall event (**Gen. 3:1–8**)
- (2) Tower of Babel event (**Gen. 11:1–4**)
- (3) Ancient Theocracy of Israel from ca 1400BC to 600 BC (**Exodus–2 Chron.**)
- (4) Jesus Christ (**Matt.-John**)

How do we NOT love the world?

- (1) What place does the Word of God have in every area of our lives?
- (2) Do we look for Jesus Christ as our sole Messiah?
- (3) Do we not take opposition personally?

### **2:16 for all that is in the world . . . is not of the Father but of the world lust of the flesh**

Physical body is corrupted not only by physical death but also by its spiritual energization.

Propensity for addictions—alcohol and other drugs, sexual imagery, anger, excuses—substitutes for managing life. Chemical reactions in our body that feel good at first, but then subside so there must be more stimuli to keep the same chemical reaction.

Fantasies feed the flesh:

Neural network is then developed sort of like an athlete trains his body so we become “skilled”—learned behavior pattern; energized by demonic powers (**Eph 2:2**)

SELF-EVALUATION: am I responding to an inner feeling in order to violate God’s design?  
Separate from legitimate feelings—hunger, thirst, pain, sorrow

### **Lust of the eyes**

Appearance-centered desire to control.

**Gen. 3:6** aesthetics can be for good or for evil

**Matt. 5:27–30**

Pharisees had read the seventh commandment isolated from the tenth. The 10<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> are one and the same: my proper authority and my rebellious sin nature. Mental attitude sins are more urgently needing attention than overt acts because they are the cause of overt acts.

Our culture is increasingly appealing to coveting (= dissatisfaction with God’s provisions):

- No-fault divorce has led to same-sex marriage because self-gratification must be satisfied in increasing number of ways.
- Entire homosexual movement denies the sin nature in man as the source of the problem.
- Socialism centers on envy with its “zero-sum” view of human achievement.

SELF-EVALUATION: am I responding to some external attractive object I see that I want intensely enough that I am willing to disobey God’s Word?

### **III. Conclusion**

We live in a fallen creation.

It has come under the control of the Evil One.

Are we living consistently with our initial trust in Jesus Christ for eternal life?

**Gal. 5:16–17** (Slide 6)

**Rom. 12:2** (Slide 7)

SELF-EVALUATION: am I responding to an inner feeling in order to violate God's design?

Separate that from legitimate feelings—hunger, thirst, pain, sorrow

SELF-EVALUATION: am I responding to some external attractive object I see that I want intensely enough that I am willing to disobey God's Word?

Separate that from legitimate aesthetics that reveal God's effulgence.