

## 1 John Series

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### SESSION #17 2/2/14

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

##### 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

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) (Slide 3)

#### 2:15

“love” = allegiance

“world” [Greek: *kosmos*] = ??

Revealing events in the biblical framework:

(1) Garden of Eden fall event (**Gen. 3:1–8**)

Ideas of fantasy: that the Word of God is not self-authenticating—we have to first erect our standards of proof and then see if it meets our standards ... that finite, fallen man can erect a true picture of the world

(2) Tower of Babel event (**Gen. 11:1–4**)

Vision of fantasy: that corporate mortal, corruptible mankind can create a global, one-world government that will be safe from natural and social evil

(3) Ancient theocracy of Israel from ca 1400 BC to 600 BC (**Exodus–2 Chron.**)

With God physically present in the Tabernacle and Temple bound to a published contract and speaking regularly through prophets, the theocracy failed.

(4) Jesus Christ (**Matt–John**)

With God incarnate, He was still rejected to the point of being sentenced to death.

## II. Three Sources of Evil in the Cosmos

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

**for** = because

### A. Lust of the flesh

Question: Prior to the fall, Adam and Eve did not have the same ethical kind of flesh that we have. How do you think ours is different?

Note **Gal. 5:16–17** (Slide 4)

SELF-EVALUATION: Am I responding to an inner feeling in order to violate God's design? Separate from legitimate feelings—hunger, thirst, pain, sorrow. Am I managing my flesh or is it managing me?

### **B. Lust of the eyes**

Appearance-centered desire to control (Eve “looks good” **Gen. 2:6**)

Note **Matt. 6:22–23** “**eye**” = entire outlook and evaluation of what is seen. (Slide 5)

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? Am I managing my sense of aesthetics and beauty or has it been taken over by a covetous spirit?

### **C. Pride of life**

**pride** (Gk: *alazoneia*), life (Gk: *bios* = ) Used in **1 John 3:16** for the material things, possessions of life in the physical world (Slide 6)

**life** (Gk: *bios*, not *zoe*)

**Mark 12:44** “*she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.*”

**Luke 8:14** “*pleasures of this life*”

**1 Tim. 2:2** “*that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life*”

**2 Tim. 2:4** “*No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life*”

**1 John 3:17** “*whoever has the world's goods and beholds his brother in need*”

Question: What is the rationale behind this arrogance?

SELF EVALUATION: Am I so immersed in my plans for the details of life that I've forgotten my creature status—that I brought nothing into this world and shall take nothing out?

## **III. Conclusion**

We live in a fallen creation. It has come under the control of the Evil One.

Are we living consistently in resistance to the Cosmos with our initial trust in Jesus Christ for eternal life? (Slide 7)

Note: **Rom. 12:2 & 1 John 3:17** (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. Am I managing my flesh or is it managing me?

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? Am I managing my sense of aesthetics and beauty or has it been taken over by a covetous spirit?

SELF EVALUATION: Am I so immersed in my plans for the details of life that I've forgotten my creature status—that I brought nothing into this world and shall take nothing out?