

FATAL LOVE

1 John 2:15-17

We currently face a deadly enemy that regrettably is gaining serious ground in the church. Using subtle seduction, it strokes our self-centeredness and promises to supply us with sensations that, it claims, will satisfy what our soul is seeking. If left unchecked, this enemy threatens to fracture our faith, divert our affection away from Christ, ultimately undo us, ending in our destruction. Curious? The enemy is worldliness.

Mystery theater drama unfolding in real life...

Would you please define *world*? v. 15

What it's NOT – the earth (Gen 1:31); humanity (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2)
What it IS – the system of thought that exalts itself above the knowledge of God (Ephesians 2:2; 6:11-13; 1 John 4:1-5; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

How does it gain access and take hold? v. 16

First things first – the flesh wars against the spirit...

- ♥ The desires (craving/lust) of the flesh –

"we teach that all human desires are evil, and charge them with sin – not in that they are natural, but because they are inordinate."

John Calvin

"the evil in our desires often lies not in what we want but in the fact that we want it too much. Natural affections (for any good thing) become inordinate, ruling cravings."

David Powlison

- ♥ The desires (craving/lust) of the eyes –
Bombarded by images, growing our greed.
- ♥ The pride of life –
Q: how do you define yourself?

“Sparkler” superficiality - a sad way of life... v. 17

Seems like a 'no-brainer' – God is gracious that way

“I hope _____ is listening. They really need to hear this.”

Let me introduce you to Demas (Col. 4:14; Philemon 1:24; 2 Tim 4:10)

“Before Demas deserted, he drifted.” C.J. Mahaney

Q: Can you recognize 'drift'?

Got hope?

2 options available:

*“There are two ways in which a practical moralist may attempt to displace from the human heart its love of the world – either by a demonstration of the world’s vanity, so that the heart shall be prevailed upon simply to withdraw its regards from an object that is not worthy of it; or by setting forth another object, **even God, as more worthy of its attachment**, so that the heart shall be prevailed upon not to resign an old affection, which shall have nothing to succeed it, but to exchange an old affection for a new one.”*

Thomas Chalmers

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth,
Will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.