

## **The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #8**

Love Is Defined By Direction

I John 2:15-17

### **I. The Wrong Direction of Love**

#### **A.** Do not love

- Agape
- Surrender to
- Gain satisfaction

#### **B.** The world

- Cosmos – Satan’s realm
- The value system – away from God’s Kingdom
- Culture
- The way of life

#### **C.** The things of the world

- The stuff of this world order
- What people seek to gain satisfaction

#### **D.** It is directionally away from God

- Love of the world
- No love from God
- One or the other

### **II. All That’s In The World**

#### **A.** Desire of the flesh

- Appetites of humanity (flesh)
- What makes me happy
- What takes my full attention
- Never satisfies
- Just creates more desires

#### **B.** The desires of the eyes

- I want what I see
- Eve and apple
- David and Bathsheba
- No reasoning or thinking, just action

#### **C.** The pride in riches

- If I have enough of everything, I will be OK
- Material possession make me look OK
- Boasting – the appearance of being all together

#### **D.** None of this comes from the Father

- God doesn’t use any of these methods to fill our lives

#### **E.** This is the strategy of the world

- It personifies loving the wrong direction

### **III. Two Directions**

#### **A.** The world and its desires – a dead end

#### **B.** Doing God’s will – everlasting life

#### **C.** Is this a choice?

### **IV. Thoughts**

#### **A.** Live in the world don’t be of the world!

- How do you do that?
- Escape?
- Create a Christian culture
  1. Calvin’s Geneva
  2. Amish
  3. Mormons
  4. Cults
- Or love God and follow Him

#### **B.** The values of world in the church

- Success
- Size
- Money
- Program

#### **C.** The idea of love

- Seek first
- God
- His righteousness
- Your place in His Kingdom
- Then all these other things will do OK too

#### **D.** What direction defines your love?

- That which doesn’t last
- Or that which lasts forever
- You can’t know both ways!