

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## 1 John 2:15-18

Read as a group – 1 John 2:15-18

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

3 – Main Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- The Prohibition of Worldly Love
- The Substance of Worldly Love
- The Futility of Worldly Love

### 1) The Prohibition of Worldly Love

- As a group define what John means when he says “World” in 1 John 2:15.
  - **David L. Allen writes** - The word “world” is used to refer to the organized evil system with its principles and its practices, all under the authority of Satan, which includes all teachings, ideas, culture, attitudes, activities, etc., that are opposed to God.
  - **C.J. Mahaney writes in his book “Worldliness”** – That worldliness is a love for this fallen world. It’s loving the values and pursuits of the world that stand opposed to God. More specifically, it is to gratify and exalt oneself to the exclusion of God. It rejects God’s rule and replaces it with our own (like creating our own Bible).
- Why is it important that we define “World” in 1 John 2:15?
- How can a wrong understanding of the word “World” lead to either legalism or antinomianism (against the law)?

- **Leaders Cheat:** Antinomianism is a belief that rejects the biblical teaching that there are established moral laws for Christians to follow. It is the opposite of legalism.
- Explain why you agree or disagree with the following quote.
  - **C.J. Mahaney writes in his book “Worldliness”** – Today, the greatest challenge facing American evangelicals is not persecution from the world, but seduction by the world.

## 2) The Substance of Worldly Love

- What is the “lust of the flesh”?
  - **William Barclay writes** - To be subject to the flesh’s desire is to judge everything by purely material standards. It is to live a life dominated by the senses. It is to be gluttonous in food; overindulgent in luxury; slavish in pleasure; lustful and lax in morals; selfish in the use of possessions. The flesh’s desire disregards the commandments of God, the Judgment of God, the standards of God and the very existence of God.
- What is the “lust of the eyes”?
- What is the “pride of life”?
  - **John MacArthur Writes** - Through Pride, humanity rebels against God and arrogantly attempts to dethrone the Sovereign of the universe and replace God with himself.
- How does the world utilize this threefold temptation? How is the world actively trying to turn our worship of God into a worship of self?
- **Read Genesis 3:1-6**
- How does the Genesis account of the first temptation in Eden compare with and underscore the truth of John’s words in 2:15-17?
- Read the following passages and discuss how they are connected to each other and to 1 John 2:16.
  - 2 Sam. 11:1-6
  - Joshua 7:19-21
  - Gen. 19:26

- If you are familiar with these three passages, how do the stories end for the 3 main characters that are pursuing a Worldly love?
- **Read Luke 4:1-12**
- How did Jesus model for us a love for the Father over a love for the World?

### 3) The Futility of Worldly Love

- What is John's strong warning in verses 15-17? What are the consequences of heeding/dismissing this command?
- **Read Matthew 16:24-26** and discuss how Jesus' teaching relates to John's warning?
- What are some ways in which you are tempted to worldliness?
- How can we tell if we are too enamored with the world?
- What are some ways that we as a group can keep each other accountable when it comes to the temptation of worldly love without becoming legalist?
- Read and discuss the following quote by Charles Spurgeon.
  - **Charles Spurgeon**, writing 150 years ago, nevertheless speaks to the problem in the church: "I believe, that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church. Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and I will find a little marginal note reading thus: 'in this age men could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another. The more the Church is distinct from the world in her acts and in her maxims, the more true is her testimony for Christ, and the more potent is her witness against sin."
- With Charles Spurgeon's quote fresh in mind, spend sometime praying for COBC's
  - Distinction from the world
  - Protection from worldly lust
  - Avoidance of falling into both errors of legalism and antinomianism
  - Our testimony to the community.