

NEW CREATION CHURCH

Small Group Guide

Week of June 7, 2026

1 John – Part 5

(Based on May 31, 2026 Teaching)

Key Scripture Passages

- 1 John 2:15-17

Key Takeaways

- You cannot love the world and love the Father—your heart has room for only one ultimate love
- All temptations fall into three categories: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life
- What commands your attention and affection becomes the mold that shapes you
- Loving God means choosing what is vital over what is merely attractive
- The world will be antagonistic toward those who are not of the world

Discussion Questions

1. **What does it mean to "love the world"?** How is this different from simply living in the world or enjoying good things God has created?
2. **Review the three categories of worldly desires:**
 - Lust of the flesh (disordered desires/appetites)
 - Lust of the eyes (covetousness/wanting what we see)
 - Pride of life (desire to exalt self)

Can you think of examples from Scripture or modern life that fit each category?
3. **The message stated: "What we love is what shapes our pattern. What we love is what shapes who we are."** What does this mean practically in our daily lives?
4. **The sermon mentioned that desires themselves are not necessarily wrong—it is living for them that makes it wrong.** How do we distinguish between enjoying God's gifts and being ruled by our desires for them?
5. **The sermon referenced Romans 12 about not being conformed to this world.** In what specific areas of your life do you feel pressure to conform to the world's pattern rather than Christ's?
6. **Social media and comparison culture feed the lust of the eyes and pride of life.** How can we engage with technology and social media in ways that demonstrate we love God more than worldly validation?
7. **James 1:14-15 teaches that temptation becomes sin when desire conceives.** What practical "gates" can we put over our appetites to prevent desires from ruling our lives?

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Practical Application

Choose ONE:

Option 1 - Lust of the Flesh: Fast from one comfort or pleasure you regularly indulge in (food, entertainment, sleep patterns) and replace that time with prayer or Scripture reading.

Option 2 - Lust of the Eyes: Take a break from one platform or activity that fuels comparison or covetousness (social media, shopping apps, home design shows). Journal about what you notice.

Option 3 - Pride of Life: Identify one area where you seek self-exaltation or validation. Intentionally practice humility by serving someone else in that area without telling anyone about it.

Prayer Focus

1. That God would reveal any areas where love for the world has crept into our hearts
2. For strength to resist the specific temptations each person is facing
3. That our love for the Father would grow deeper and stronger than any worldly desire
4. For grace to choose what is vital over what is attractive

Remember: The world and its desires are temporary. Our love for God and obedience to Him have eternal significance. What we choose to love today determines who we become tomorrow.