

1 John 2.15-17
Love Not the World

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

1 John 2.8

Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

John 13.34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13.35

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Matthew 22.36

“Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

Matthew 22.37

Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

Matthew 22.38-40

This is *the* first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37



1 Corinthians 13.1

Though I speak with the
tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love, I have
become sounding brass or a
clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13.2

And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13.3

And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13.4

Love suffers long *and* is kind;
love does not envy; love does
not parade itself, is not puffed
up;

1 Corinthians 13.5

does not behave rudely, does
not seek its own, is not
provoked, thinks no evil;

1 Corinthians 13.6-7

does not rejoice in iniquity, but
rejoices in the truth; bears all
things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all
things.

The Hidden Man of the Heart
The Mystery of Man's Heart
Fr. Zacharias Zacharou

The great tragedy of our time lies in the fact that we live, speak, think, and even pray to God, outside our heart, outside our Father's house.

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All the ordinances of the undefiled Church are offered to the world for the sole purpose of discovering the 'deep heart' (cf. Ps. 64:6), the centre of man's hypostasis.

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**According to the Holy Scriptures,
God has fashioned every heart in a
special way, and each heart is His
goal, a place wherein He desires to
abide that He may manifest Himself.**

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Since the kingdom of God is within us (cf. Luke 17:21), the heart is the battlefield of our salvation, and all ascetic effort is aimed at cleansing it of all filthiness, and preserving it pure before the Lord.

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The heart is the true 'temple' of man's meeting with the Lord. Man's heart 'seeketh knowledge' (Prov. 15:14), both intellectual and divine, and knows no rest until the Lord of glory comes and abides therein.

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On His part God, Who is 'a jealous God' (Exod. 34:14), will not settle for a mere portion of the heart. In the Old Testament we hear His voice crying out, 'My son, give Me thy heart' (Prov. 23:26); and in the New Testament He commands: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength' (Matt. 12:30).

1 John 2.15

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2.16

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1 John 2.17

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Questions?
Comments?