



- The key to thriving in life is tapping into God's **presence**.

9 Anyone who says, "I am in the light," but hates a believer, is still in the darkness. 1 John 2:9 (NLT)

- Who you love defines **how** you love.

The encouragement:

- Those that are new in their faith: Don't get discouraged, your sins are **forgiven**.
- Those that are young in their faith: In your struggles be **strong**.
- Those that are mature in their faith: In all you face remember God is **supreme**.

John displays a love for believers that builds them up through **encouragement**.

11 ...encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

- Who you love defines **what** you love.
- 15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 1 John 2:15 (NLT)

Loving the world is not about:

- The **planet** of the world.
- The **people** of the world.

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. John 3:16 (CEV)

Loving the world is about:

- Buying into the **philosophy** of this world.

I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. John 17:15 (NLT)

To be intimate with Jesus, we have to resist the world's **seduction**.

"... don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." James 4:4

16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 1 John 2:16 (NLT)

- The philosophy of the world establishes "**Me**" as most important.

For everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:16 (NIV)

- A life that is Self-**pleasing**.
- A life of Self-**pursuits**.
- A life of Self-**promotion**.

The throne of your life only **seats one** - It's either you or God.

18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18 (NIV)

18 Children, time is just about up. You heard that Antichrist is coming. Well, they're all over the place, antichrists everywhere you look. That's how we know that we're close to the end. 1 John 2:18 (MSG)

24 So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. 25 And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us. 1 John 2:24-25 (NLT)

- Intimacy with God is for our **protection**.

27 But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. 1 John 2:24-27 (NLT)

Application Steps:

- What is the **philosophy** that governs my life?
- Who is the **love** of my life?
- Who sits on the **throne** of my life?
- Are you allowing the **Holy Spirit** to teach you?



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why is encouragement important no matter what stage of spiritual life you are in? How has encouragement benefited your spiritual growth?
- What does the statement mean to you: "Who you love defines what you love."
- Read James 4:4 then in your own words tell "Why can't we love God and the World?"
- What does it mean to buy into the philosophy of the World?
- Talk through the points that define "Me" as being most important. What does it mean to be self-pleasing? What are self pursuits? How do we live with self-promotion? How do these principles oppose God's kingdom's principles?
- Talk about what it means that the throne of your life only seats one. What does it mean for God to sit on the throne of our life?
- What is the definition of Antichrist? An Antichrist is not just against Christ, they change the message of Christ. How are some changing the message of Jesus in our world today?
- How does the Holy Spirit protect us from the world's message that is against Christ?

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