

## Questions

1. What do we know about John's use of commands (imperative verbs)?
2. What are some of the different meanings of the word *world* in the New Testament? What's the difference between John 3:16 and 1 John 2:15?
3. Think about your own heart as you consider the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and arrogance over one's own possessions. Are there areas where you are especially convicted about your potential for loving the world and/or the things in the world? What are those areas? Are you repenting of your sin and seeking help?
4. Consider what John wrote in 2:12-14 about the identity of a believer in Jesus Christ. Do you understand and believe each of these truths? How are you growing in your daily fellowship with Jesus?
5. While the ultimate victory of the believer is secure and we will be transformed into the image of Christ, how do you guard against developing a too-casual attitude toward the world? How seriously are you regularly taking the command of 1 John 2:15?
6. Scripture is not denying our ability to own and use possessions, as good stewards, but how are you actively living in the light of 2:17, and its emphasis on the passing away of the world? In what ways is God's will and eternity a central focus of your thinking and acting?

*After each service, if you need prayer,  
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

[gbclorton.com/sermons](http://gbclorton.com/sermons)

*A Sermon Series on 1 John*

# ASSURANCE

## The First Command

**1 John 2:12-17**

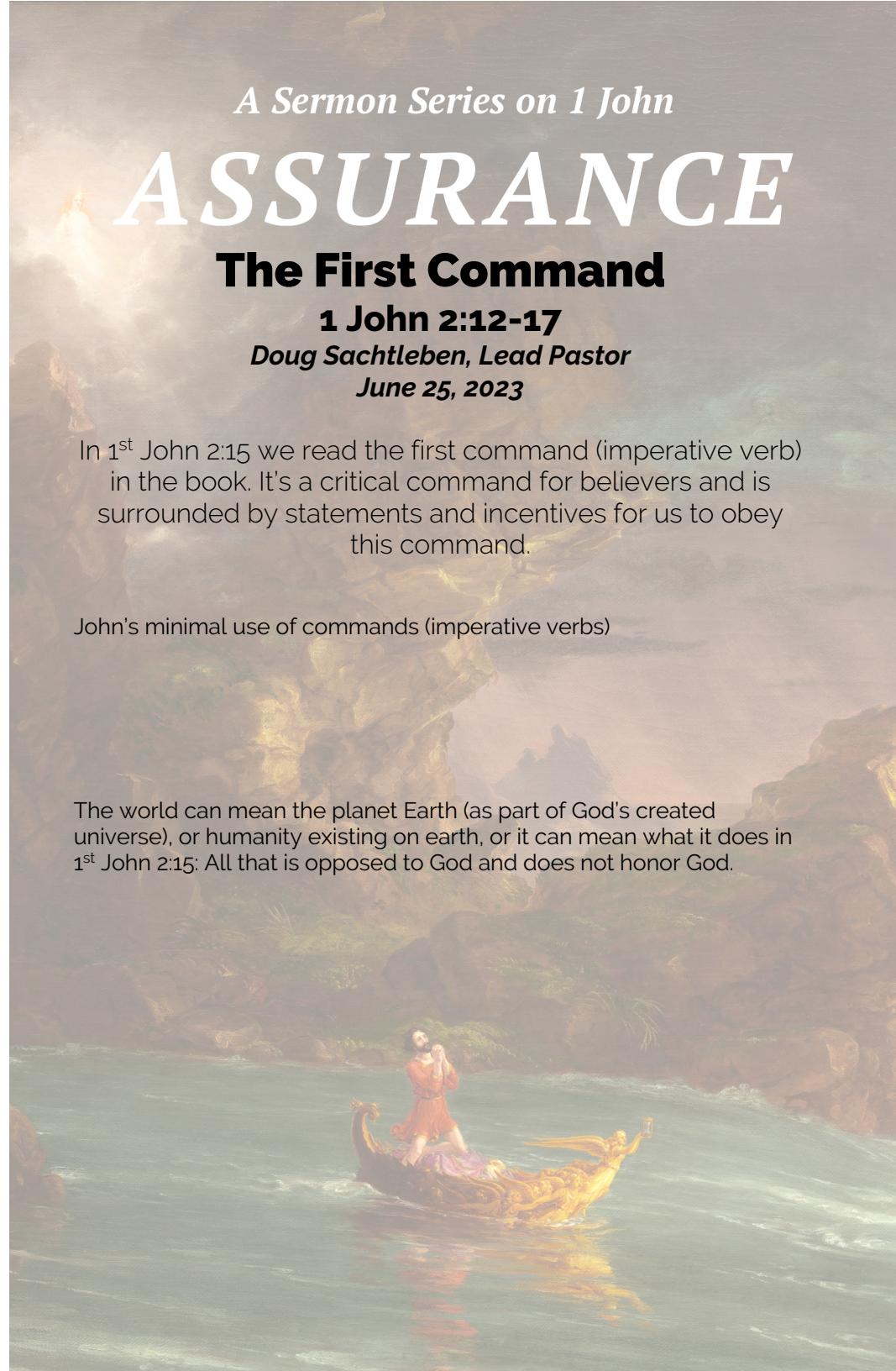
**Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor**

**June 25, 2023**

In 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15 we read the first command (imperative verb) in the book. It's a critical command for believers and is surrounded by statements and incentives for us to obey this command.

John's minimal use of commands (imperative verbs)

The world can mean the planet Earth (as part of God's created universe), or humanity existing on earth, or it can mean what it does in 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15: All that is opposed to God and does not honor God.



The Meaning of the Command (Do not love the world or the things in the world)

2. Incompatibility (2:15-16)

1. Desires of the flesh

2. Desires of the eyes

3. Impermanence (2:17)

3. Pride of life (pride in possessions)

Three Supporting Arguments

1. Identity (2:12-14)