

# I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For

## 1 John 2:15-17

*"And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does God's will remains forever." - 1 John 2:17*

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**Main Point:** We will not be satisfied by the things of this world, but instead find fulfillment in our eternal Father.

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

*Do you have a favorite song by U2? Have you ever seen them in concert?*

*Nothing is more frustrating than looking for something you can't find. Share with the group something you recently caught yourself searching for which you couldn't locate.*

*Outside of physical things, what is something you have been searching or longing for, but haven't found yet?*

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Satan has power in this world and he is actively seeking to lure us away from what will ultimately satisfy us - a relationship with Jesus. But even if you claim to have a relationship with the Lord, you may be seeking temporal things instead of the living water that will forever quench your soul's desires. John is telling us we need to weigh our hearts and decide: are we loving the world, or are we loving the Lord? We will benefit when we align our hearts with God's desires.

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1) The first place people look for fulfillment is the **SECULAR**. Read together in **1 JOHN 2:15**.

What does John mean by "the world" in this verse? How does his use of the word differ from its use in **John 3:16**?

What does it mean to love the world?

Read **Ephesians 2:1-10**. What insight does this passage give you into the differences between loving the world and loving the Father? How is it possible for you to not love the world?

How has the secular ideas of political correctness, acceptance, and tolerance become "out of tune" with God's message? How can we start re-tuning our thoughts and actions to be in harmony with Him?

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2) The second place people are looking for fulfillment is in the **PHYSICAL**. Read together in **1 JOHN 2:16**.

John lists three typical features of the sinful world. What are they, and why are they such affronts to God?

What are some practical ways we can combat each of these temptations?

The world is an organized system, headed by Satan, that leaves God out. Read **Romans 12:1-2** and discuss God's desire for us in this world. How can we discern the will of God?

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3) The final place people are looking for fulfillment is in the **SPIRITUAL**. Read together **1 JOHN 2:17**.

Read **Genesis 3:19**. How does this passage help put our focus on the eternal and spiritual rather than the secular or spiritual?

**1 Corinthians 14:1** tells us we should "pursue love and desire spiritual gifts." Where is your heart's desire? How can you pursue love and spiritual gifts more this week?

Read **Galatians 6:8**. What does Paul mean about "sowing to the flesh" and what do we reap for doing so? What does it mean to "sow to the Spirit" and how will it benefit us?

What would it look like for you to take your focus off of the world and put it on spiritual things this week? How would your relationships change? How would your spending change? How would your job and career path change?

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**Pray:**

As you close your time together pray for God to release you from the secular world and find your treasure in heaven. Ask Him to break the chains of addiction to sin. Pray in Jesus name that He will remove the desires of your heart and replace them with His desires, bringing new perspective to what is important in this life. Trust Christ for all you need and sow spiritual seeds that you might reap eternal rewards from your Heavenly Father!

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**Connect:**

Watch Michele Aguilar's "I Am Second" testimony on Youtube and consider the worldly and physical things she sought after to fill a hole only Jesus could. How do you relate to her story? What are you holding onto that you need to release to the Lord today?