The “Lust” of First John
1 John 2:15-17

Introduction:
A. Two senses in which we can love the world.
   1. A good sense like Jesus loved world (Jno. 3:16).
   2. A bad sense which involves lust.
B. “Lust” is desire “inconsistent with the will of God.” – Vines
C. “Lust” must not characterize children of God (1 Pet. 1:13-16)
D. “Lust” wars against the soul (1 Pet. 2:11)
E. Notice some characteristics of lust suggested by our text.

Discussion:
I. Lust Abuses Natural Desires.
   A. Lust of flesh and eyes misuse legitimate bodily mechanisms.
      1. God gave bodily and emotional mechanisms needed for earthly life.
      2. Gave laws to check and direct these – not mere beasts (2 Pet. 2:12-14).
   B. Lust of flesh and eyes causes one to satisfy desires without will of God.
      1. Those who live by “bread alone” satisfy by any means (Mt. 4:4; 2 Thess 3:8-12; Eph 4:28).
      2. Those who live by word of God satisfy God in satisfying needs (cf. Heb. 13:4)
      3. Those who live by word do not invite lust (1 Tim 2:9-10; Mt. 5:28; Rom. 6:12-23).

II. Lust Appeals to Human Pride (“pride of life”).
   A. Souls are sold for “honor,” “glory,” “power,” and “prestige”.
   B. Sins sold under false labels of “distinction,” “respect,” “sophistication,” and “culture.”
   C. Sins excused because we think it unthinkable to forgo temporal benefits.

III. Lust Is an Exercise in Futility (v. 17).
   A. Because of the transitory nature of earthly things.
      1. Suppose you obtained every object of lust – how long can you keep it?
      2. Suppose you enjoyed every pleasure the world offers – How long? (Cf. Heb. 11:25)
      3. Suppose you got all power, prestige, etc possible – How long will it last.
   B. Because lust knows no complete satisfaction (cf. Jas. 4:1-2)
   C. Because only “he that doth th will of God abides forever.”
      1. Have you done God’s will for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
      2. Have you done God’s will to return as a backslider?
      3. Are you doing God’s will as a Christian?

Conclusion:
A. Let us “love not the world....”
B. Let us prepare to live forever.