

# Love of the World

by Elisabeth Elliot

---

*To love the world in a way that honors God, we must know Him and receive everything from His hand, making the world a gift of His love rather than a snare.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 73:25, Matthew 6:24, James 1:17, 1 John 2:15

**Topics:** "Worldly Love", "Purified Heart"

---

## Description

Elisabeth Elliot delves into the concept of loving the world in the context of John's first letter, emphasizing that loving the world in the wrong way is to love it without knowing the Father's love. She reflects on the temporary nature of worldly things and the importance of loving them through and because of the Father, not instead of Him. Elliot prays for a purified heart that loves God purely and places Him above all earthly gifts.

---

## Transcript

John tells us in his first letter that anyone who loves the world is a stranger to the Father's love. We are not to set our hearts on the world or anything in it. These words have been interpreted in many strange ways by different varieties of Christians, and I have puzzled much over them. The word used in the original is cosmos, which means the whole created order. Is there nothing here that I am allowed to love? What about the thundering, flashing sea that I see from my window? What about the rose on my desk, or even this house where I live with its warmth and pleasantness, the cup of tea in mid-afternoon, the books on my shelves? They are not going to last forever. If I love them, am I then a stranger to my heavenly Father's love?

It has helped me to think of John's words in this manner: To love the world in the wrong way is to love it without knowing the Father's love. It is when a man knows Him and receives everything from his hand that the world is redeemed for him, no longer a snare and in opposition to the love of God. We must love the world only through and because of the Father, not instead of. Our ultimate concern must be God Himself. He is eternal. His gifts are not always so.

Lord, may no gift of yours ever take your place in my heart. Help me to hold them lightly in an open palm, that the supreme object of my desire may always be You and You alone. Purify my heart--I want to love You purely.

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/elisabeth-elliott/love-of-the-world/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**