

Belong, Believe, Become Series – 1 John
Small Group / Personal Reflection Questions
Part 4: Choosing Between 2 Loves - 1 John 2:12-17



Opening Discussion

1. When we think of our church family it's good to remember that like our physical family people are at different stages in their growth. Why is this important to remember? What can happen if we fail to remember this?
2. How would you define the world? What is the world's operating system?

Bible Study

1. Read 1 John 2:12-14. What are the three "categories" John identifies in the local church and how does he describe each? What is the significance of each category in terms of what they need?
2. Read 1 John 2:15. Compare James 4:4 and Matthew 6:24. What is the sobering message of these verses?
3. What is the world's operating system according to 1 John 2:16, 17? What do you think John means by the terms "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life". In what ways do people try to find their significance in this world system?
4. John says this operating system is "passing away." How does this system prevent us from truly loving one another?
5. What is the alternative operating system from God? How is it different? In what way does God's system set us free to live and to love?
6. If you've truly embraced God's value system of grace, what would be the evidence of that system in your daily life?

Application

1. Would you identify yourself as a child, young man, or father – spiritually speaking? What do you need to continue to grow and move forward in your stage? How can you find what you need?
2. Why is it so hard to break free from the world's operating system? What are some practical things you can do to better embrace God's operating system?