

Church and Culture  
When Materialism Consumes  
1 John 2:12-17; 3:16-18

We enjoy the American lifestyle. For the most part, with some exceptions, we live well compared to other people groups around the world. Even the bottom ten percent of Americans fare better than they would in other countries—even better than the top ten percent in some nations.

Possessions never satisfy nor last, but the love of God does both.

1. Our enemy is Satan.
2. Our fight is in the world.
3. Our attack comes from three fronts.
4. Our victory is secure.

We don't just read the Bible, we use the Bible.

We don't just seek God's will, we live God's will.

We don't just say we love, we sacrifice for love.

John said that Christian love is practical. Christian love always expresses itself in action. John contrasted *words* versus *actions*. To love in word means merely to talk about a need, but to love in action means to do something about meeting that need. Christian love doesn't just say, "I love you." It gets its hands dirty, its feet dusty, and its heart engaged. We overcome the world by loving God and loving people.