

Why Do Men Depart from the Faith?

Some love their sin too much. The apostle John wrote: This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil (Jn 3:19).

Others just don't love God enough. The apostle Paul wrote: If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed (1 Co 16:22).

Some profess faith in Christ but themselves not to be genuine believers by returning to their filthy patterns of living after having heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. The apostle Peter wrote: But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit." 2 Pe 2:22. Dogs in scripture are figurative for the unsaved (Mt 7:6, Rev. 22:15).

The apostle Paul said that his companion, Demas had left him: For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world (2 Ti 4:9–10). This Greek word forsaken (ἐγκαταλείπω) means "to utterly abandon" or "desert".

The world (1 Jn 2:15) the flesh (1 Jn 2:16) and the devil (Rev. 12:9) ensnare men (1 Jn 2:16). Demas had been one of Paul's companions in the faith along with Luke and Epaphras. John MacArthur writes:

...Demas was a fair-weather disciple who had never counted the cost of genuine commitment to Christ. His kind are described by our Lord in Matt. 13:20, 21; cf. John 8:31; 1 John 2:1. [He] **loved this present world.**¹

¹ See notes on James 4:4; 1 John 2:15–17...¹

Jas 4:4...James has in view professing Christians, outwardly associated with the church, but holding a deep affection for the evil world system. **friendship.** Appearing only here in the NT, the Gr. word describes love in the sense of a strong emotional attachment. Those with a deep and intimate longing for the things of the world give evidence that they are not redeemed (1 John 2:15–17)...**enmity with God.** The necessary corollary to friendship with the world. The sobering truth that unbelievers are God's enemies is taught throughout Scripture (cf. Deut. 32:41–43; Pss. 21:8; 68:21; 72:9; 110:1, 2; Is. 42:13; Nah. 1:2, 8; Luke 19:27; Rom. 5:10; 8:5–7; 1 Cor. 15:25).¹

1 Jn 2:15 Do not love the world. Although John often repeats the importance of love and that God is love (4:7, 8), he also reveals that God hates a certain type of love: love of the world (John 15:18–20). In this text, John expresses a particular form of the fourth test (i.e., the test of love). Positively, the Christian loves God and fellow Christians. Negatively, an absence of love for the world must habitually characterize the love life of those to be considered genuinely born again. "Love" here signifies affection and devotion. God, not the world, must have the first place in the Christian's life (Matt. 10:37–39; Phil. 3:20) **the world.** This is not a reference to the physical, material world but the invisible spiritual system of evil dominated by Satan...and all that it offers in opposition to God, His Word, and His people (cf. 5:19; John 12:31; 1 Cor. 1:21; 2 Cor. 4:4; James 4:4; 2 Pet. 1:4). **the love of the Father is not in him.** Either one is a genuine Christian marked by love and obedience to God, or one is a non-Christian in rebellion against God, i.e., in love with and enslaved by the satanically controlled world system (Eph. 2:1–3; Col. 1:13; James 4:4). No middle ground between these two alternatives exists for someone claiming to be born again. The false

The Christian has escaped the snare of the devil. But the rest of the world remains captive to him. John wrote: We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (1 Jn 5:19).

Some don't believe because they don't want to believe. They are lied to by false prophets and they love it: The prophets prophesy falsely and the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so (Je 5:31).

When men are not punished immediately for their sins, they become emboldened to commit more sin: Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil (Ec 8:11).

Men must be directed toward the things of God: Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law (Pr 29:18).

teachers had no such singular love, but were devoted to the world's philosophy and wisdom, thereby revealing their love for the world and their unsaved state (cf. Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13; 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Pet. 2:12–22).¹