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# Everlasting love

## 1 John: Confidence and faith - Session 4

**Materialism** A tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values.

**Hedonism** The pursuit of pleasure; sensual self-indulgence. [oxforddictionaries.com](http://oxforddictionaries.com)

### Q1. How well do you think these two “isms” describe society around us?

#### 1 John 2:15-17

*15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

Note: When John uses the word ‘world’ he is not referring to the physical environment as such. What he means is ‘humankind’ – a generic reference to human beings – who are opposed to God and what God stands for.

### Q2. What is John talking about when he says: “do not love the world or anything in the world?”

### Q3. Does that mean we shouldn’t get any enjoyment from a buying a new jacket, having dinner at a nice restaurant, going on an overseas holiday or buying a new car?

“Don’t let your happiness depend on something that you can lose” – C.S. Lewis

#### Q4. Why does John say not to love the world or anything in the world?

#### Q5. How can we work out what we love?

"I'm not a materialist or a hedonist. To me, the most important thing in life is my family".

#### Q6. Does 1 John 2:15-17 have anything to say in this case?

John writes: *The man who does the will of God lives forever*. (1 John 2:17). One man who claimed to have gone to the 'other side' was billionaire Australian businessman Kerry Packer.<sup>1</sup>

#### Q7. How do we know if Packer is right about the other side?

#### Q8. John writes: *The man who does the will of God lives forever* (1 John 2:17). Is John saying that acceptance by God is based on what we do?

Note: To answer this question, something we looked at in a previous session should help with an answer: *But if we walk in the light, as he [God] is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, purifies us from all sin.* (1 John 1:7)  
"Fellowship" just means partnership, being united for a purpose.

(...) He has already experienced eight heart attacks and after one of them, while playing polo in Sydney, the Australian media magnate technically "died" on October 7, 1990. His heart stopped beating for seven minutes before he was revived. The experience did nothing to change Packer's robust, if tenuous grip on life. "I've been to the other side", he said. **"And let me tell you, there's nothing there"**.

Getting back to John's letter ...

#### 1 John 5:13

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Note: By "know" John means that his readers might have greater confidence and assurance in what they believe.

#### Q8. How does this section in 1 John on love help John's readers with their confidence and assurance?

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<sup>1</sup> Kerry Packer: *Wizard of Oz*, BBC news, Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2000.

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