



Daily Devotionals

[click here to go to website – stmatthewsrichmond.org](http://stmatthewsrichmond.org)

1 JOHN 2: 15-17 YOU JUST GOTTA LOVE GOD!

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.

The classic cartoon depiction of this struggle is that of the cartoon character faced with a (usually) moral dilemma being counseled by a small angel on one shoulder and a little devil on the other. Each vies with the other by whispering advice into the character's ear. In the end, the character's decision is dictated by which advice he follows. The animators indicated that this was an internal struggle, and not dictated by some outside authority, by making both the angel and the devil a recognizable facsimile of the character himself – his good and bad conscience. It is an easy step to see the small characters as representing the Spirit and the sinful nature as described by St. Paul.

From our life experience, as well as from Scripture, the message is the same. We cannot obey God and our sinful desires at the same time. Since we have come to understand love in this context in Scripture as putting our focus or object first above all else, it is equally clear that there is only room for one at the top of our affections. On the practical level, whatever we place in that position dictates our decisions, and therefore, becomes our master. That is why Jesus said: ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money” (Matthew 6:24).

Be number one in my life, Lord God. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, deliver me from service to self alone and to the dictates of my sinful nature. Re-create in me a heart that desires only to serve and obey you as you have revealed yourself through Jesus Christ. May you be the Master of all that I think and all that I do - not only now, but forever. Amen.

Chuck+