

## Little Children, Young Men, Fathers

1 John 2:12-14

1 John 2:12 - 14 (KJV) 12I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. 13I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. 14I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1) Different levels of maturity.

a) Little children.

- i) Your sins are forgiven you.
- ii) You have known the Father.

b) Fathers.

- i) I write unto you, fathers, because you have known him that is from the beginning.
- ii) I have written unto you fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning.

c) Young men.

- i) You have overcome the wicked one.
- ii) Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.

2) Different types of followers in Jesus' day.

a) Those who saw the signs.

- i) A wicked and an adulterous generation seeks for a sign—no sign but of Jonah.
- ii) The Jews sought for a sign—the gospel was a stumbling block.

b) Those who ate His food.

- i) Follow for the loaves and fishes.

- ii) Only what they could get for their own satisfaction—blessing-oriented.
- c) Those who wanted a leader of influence to further their own cause.
  - i) Some believed Jesus would be the one to overthrow the Roman government.
  - ii) Some identify with Christianity for political gain.
- d) Those who wanted to criticize and trap the Lord.
  - i) Are you supposed to pay taxes to Caesar?
  - ii) The baptism of John—from man or from God?
- e) Those who follow Jesus because of inner struggles and fear.
  - i) Need-oriented.
  - ii) Do not feel complete in Christ.
- f) Those who followed Jesus because they truly knew who He was.
  - i) The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world—John.

John 1:29 - 31 (KJV) 29The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. **31And I knew him not:** but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

- ii) The Christ of God—Peter
- 3) Different levels of believers in the Body of Christ.
    - a) Nominal Christians.
    - b) Those who become involved in the work of God.
    - c) Those who desire to become disciples of the Lord.
  - 4) There will always be believers at different levels of maturity.
    - a) Milk drinkers.
    - b) Meat eaters.

- 5) John 1:29 - 31 (KJV) 29The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. Different levels of believers according to how we hear and receive the Word of God.
- 6) John 1:29 - 31 (KJV) 29The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. The fulfillment of the Feasts of Israel.
- a) Passover—fulfilled in Jesus.
  - b) Pentecost—fulfilled by the coming of the Holy Spirit.
  - c) Tabernacles—fulfilled by coming into the full knowledge of the Father.