

Encouragement for Every Age

I John 2:12-14

Introduction:

2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Problem #1 How many _____ of Christian is John referring to?

Problem #2 Why does John seem to say the same thing _____?

This is _____!

This is _____

John 10:27 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me*

1. As you follow the Bible, you're in God's _____

2 Peter 3:15 *... our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

2. As you seek to grow mature you're doing what God _____

Hebrews 5:12 *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

I Corinthians 13:11 *When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.*

I Corinthians 14:20 *Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature.*

A. You remain loyal to Christ

I Corinthians 3:1 *I could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ.*

B. You're stable in your faith

Ephesians 4:14, *we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;*

C. You love theology

Hebrews 5:13 *For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.*

3. As you seek to know God intimately, you'll find the _____ in life

John 17:3 *this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.*

2 Peter 1:3 *seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*

4. As a child, young man or father spiritually, you're a _____ to your God

Children

Fathers

Young men

A. They are Strong

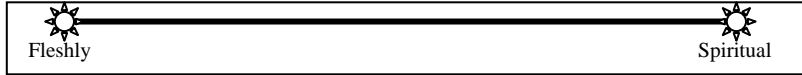
B. They are stable in the Word

Psalms 119:9 *How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.*

C. They have overcome the Evil one

Conclusion:

1. Stop counting on a _____ and start relying upon a _____
2. Develop a plan to grow deep in the _____
3. Depend on the _____ to grow in Christ



Galatians 5:16 *walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.*

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*

A –

P –

P –

L –

Y –

4. Turn to _____ for the forgiveness of sins