

B E **A** FFIRMED, **R** EMINDED, **E** NCOURAGED

1 JOHN 2:12-14





SEE LIGHT, BE LIGHT

- From 1 John 1 & 2:1-11...
 - We have light: God is light, Jesus is the light of the world
 - and can overcome barriers to the light
 - We are light: Jesus commissions to be the light to the world
 - Light = Love = Life
 - We must walk in the light: light overcomes darkness
 - Living out the truth = loving people ~ loving God



1 JOHN

- One of only two New Testament Epistles (letters) in which the author does not identify themselves (the other is Hebrews)
- We cannot know for certain, but authorship has most commonly been attributed to John the Apostle
 - One of Jesus' closest disciples
 - Probably the author of the four other New Testament books (The Gospel of John, 2 John, 3 John, Revelation)
 - Evidence for this includes: literary style, testimony as an eye-witness, authoritative tone, indication of close ties to Christ
- Purposes for writing are identified in the text but include...
 - To expose false gnostic teaching (and associated lack of morality), to identify Christ and to give assurances of faith



1 JOHN 2

“12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”



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WRITING TO...

- ... Children, Fathers, Young men
- These appear to be three couplets written to people of different ages or levels of maturity in the church
- However the first couplet is perhaps not quite as it seems in English as in the Greek different words are used...
- The first is TEKNION, the second is PAIDIA



DEAR CHILDREN (1)...

- τεκνίον (teknion): Little Children
- The same address used at the beginning of chapter 2
 - “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.”
- Also used in John 13:33
 - Jesus tells HIS DISCIPLES “My children, I will be with you only a little longer.”
 - It is valid to suggest this is not aimed exclusively at little children



DEAR CHILDREN (1)...

- “12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.”
- Young in years or young in faith?
 - It is hard to definitively say, but the purpose for writing to them might be associated with their maturity relative to the writer (be it spiritual or physical)
- So what is John’s focus here?
 - Jesus and the foundation of forgiveness He gives us all
 - A reminder
 - An encouragement
 - A foundation to build upon for what he has to say



BE AFFIRMED

YOUR SINS ARE
FORGIVEN ON
ACCOUNT OF HIS
NAME



DEAR CHILDREN (2)

- παιδία (paidia): Young Children
- The same word that was used when the little children were brought to Jesus...
 - Matt 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them”
- It would seem to suggest it is aimed toward young children
 - Although the same word is interestingly also used in verse 18 which seems to be addressing everyone



DEAR CHILDREN (2)

- “14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.”
- Unlike the other couplets where those addressed are given essentially the same message twice, there is a different emphasis here
 - The first is about forgiveness
 - This is about the father
 - Two fundamental foundation stones that we need to build the faith of our children and those who are young in faith
- He is affirming who they are and WHOSE they are



BE AFFIRMED

YOU KNOW
(or can know and
find your identity in)
THE FATHER



FATHERS

- πατέρες (pateres): Father, ancestor, elder, senior
- Mothers and fathers in the faith - We need you to teach, mentor, disciple, coach, encourage, spur, invest in and cheer on the rising generation
- Remember what God has done - in your life and through the ages
- Be a reminder to others and a guide of who God



FATHERS

- “I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.” (X2)
- The message given here is exactly the same twice...
 - either there’s something poetic in the writing or he simply needed the mature (in years and/or faith) to be doubly sure!
- They are needing reminding that this is the same God they have always known
 - The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: God of the Covenant
 - The God of Moses: The Great I AM
 - The God incarnate in Christ: Rev 22 “13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”



BE REMINDED

OUR GOD HAS
ALWAYS BEEN
AND ALWAYS BE
THE LORD



YOUNG MEN / YOUTHS

- “I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.” From verse 13
- Νεανίσκοι (neaniskoi): plural, masculine noun
- From the same as neanias; a youth (under forty) - young man. (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance)
 - Neanias: a young man, youth; a man in his prime (used even of a man of 40)
 - I’m definitely claiming this!!!
- Dealing with challenges and temptations during the teens and young adult years is nothing new!



YOUNG MEN / YOUTHS

- “I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” From verse 14
- **By faith YOU HAVE OVERCOME**
 - The Living Word lives in you by His Spirit
 - The word of God is alive and active and at work in us
- Living out our faith is enormously challenging in 2020
 - You have to make counter culture decision
 - You are light in a dark world
 - His word is a lamp to your feet
 - His word is sharper than a two-edged sword



YOUNG MEN / YOUTHS

- Youth is not an excuse
- 1 Tim 4:12 “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
- Young people on fire and passionate to follow Christ and disciples in Kingdom living are how churches, communities and nations are transformed
- When generations honour, love and partner with each other for the kingdom we will see the power of God at work
 - Who cares If we sing Wesleyan hymns or the latest Elevation track!
 - I love that we do both and the heart with which we do them.



YOUNG MEN / YOUTHS

- Psalm 119 “9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”
- Rev 12:11 “They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”
- You have overcome by the Word, live by the word



BE ENCOURAGED

YOU HAVE & WILL
OVERCOME THE
EVIL ONE BY THE
WORD OF GOD



1 JOHN 2:12-14

- The author's intention in this passage is to affirm, remind and encourage the readers in the reality and truth of who Christ is and to spur them on in Him
- **BE AFFIRMED** - your sins are forgiven in His name and secure in the Father
- **BE REMINDED** - He is, always has been and always will be the Great I AM
- **BE ENCOURAGED** - You have and will overcome

