

The Evidence of Dynamic Life 1 John 2:12-14

INTRODUCTION

1. John shifts from the foundation of the position of fellowship in God to the dynamic relationship with God.
2. The dynamic relationship points to development, growth, and change.
3. A marker of fellowship, being integrated into God's life, is that life begets life. There will be growth and development, life is dynamic!
4. Critical to this life flourishing is a vibrant community.

MESSAGE THEME: *Living with discernment and certainty through a dynamic life in God in a vibrant Christian community.*

REVIEW

1. John is correcting errors regarding Jesus Christ and authentic life in God.
2. From first-hand accounts, he sets forth Jesus' teachings, correcting those errors.
3. He declared that God is light and there is no darkness in Him whatsoever.
4. He corrected those who say they have no sin and have not sinned.
5. He assured that those who confess and acknowledge their sin before God will have their sin forgiven in Jesus Christ by His shed blood or death and resurrection.
6. He assured us that Jesus is our defense lawyer.
7. You can be assured that you are in fellowship with God and His life if you desire to obey His commands and love others who are in fellowship with Him

FELLOWSHIP RESULTS IN DYNAMIC LIFE IN GOD

1 John 2:12–14 (ESV) I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 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. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 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 abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

The Overview

- John delineates groupings of Christians. *Children, Fathers, and Young Men.*
- John does not indicate their physical ages but the characteristics of those in fellowship with God.
- There is debate as to how many groups are intended.
 - Is *one* group intended with three characteristics that are to represent everybody, found in *children, fathers, and young men*?
 - Are *two* groups intended? They are all identified as children of God, but there are the spiritual young men and the *spiritual fathers*, or the more mature.
 - Are there *three* groups intended: the *spiritual new-born*, the *spiritual young men*, and the *spiritual fathers*?
- John visits each of these descriptions of Christians two times. This *literary*

recurrence is typical of Middle Eastern communication.

- This is done many times as a teaching tool. The first cycle presents the information with broad brush strokes, while the second cycle presents more detailed information on the same subjects.
- i.e., Genesis chapters one and two.

A Summary

<u>Identification</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Passage</u>
Little children	“your sins are forgiven”	1 John 2:12
	“you know the Father”	1 John 2:13
Young Men	“overcome the evil one”	1 John 2:13
	“you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”	1 John 2:14
Fathers	“you know Him who has been from the beginning”	1 John 2:13
	“you know Him who has been from the beginning”	1 John 2:14

CHILDREN

vss. 12,13c

1 John 2:12–13 (ESV) *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name’s sake. 13 . . . I write to you, children, because you know the Father.*

Identity

- **Teknia**, used in verse 12, **Paidia**, used in **verse 13c**.
1. **Teknia** emphasizes the **community of nature** between child and parents as **offspring of God**.
 2. **Paidia**, used in **verse 13**, differs by emphasizing the idea of **subordination in a relationship** or a **student-like position**. (Westcott p 61). **A young child vs. infant**.

Position & Characteristic

1. **Sins Are Forgiven vs. 12**
 - In the first cycle of descriptions, John states that as *teknia*, their sins “*are forgiven them for His name’s sake*.”
 - “*Are forgiven*” is in the perfect tense, which means **“the sins have been and remain forgiven.”**
 - The sins are forgiven **for His name’s sake**.
 - This is the greatest security one can have, **sin forgiven is based on the completed historical fact that Christ died and satisfied the requirements for sin to be forgiven – (propitiation)**.
 - John strongly emphasizes the *assured standing* into which every Christian has come by virtue of the person and work of Jesus Christ. (St. p. 102)

2. You Know the Father vs. 13 c

- **“Because you know the Father” (perfect tense, you have come to know and remain knowing the Father.)**
- The natural result of receiving or embracing Jesus into your life for forgiveness of sins is that you have a personal and experiential knowledge of, and relationship with, God the Father.
- **The way to knowledge of the Father is through the forgiveness of your sins through the name of Jesus Christ.** (Th p 65)
- “Knowing the Father” equates to “having your sins forgiven on account of his name.”

Fathers vss. 13a, 14a

1 John 2:13–14 (ESV) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. . . . 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

- John identifies the spiritual fathers both times with the words, *you have known Him who is from the beginning.*
- The first time may have been a reference to *Jesus Christ*, the second time to *God the Father* due to the flow of the context.
 - By virtue of knowing God the Son, one knows God the Father.
- **The word *know* is the same as used of the “little children.” Whereas the little children *know* Him as “Father,” the fathers have come to *know* Him as the *Him who is from the beginning.***
- **Their experiential knowledge of God had ripened. Their knowledge of Him was more than merely their Father. They knew Him in a deeply experiential way.**
- **They grew in experiencing the awesome majesty of God.**
- They experientially know God and have grown in their knowledge of God through their experiences with Him.

Young Men vss. 2:13, 14b

1 John 2:13–14 (ESV) . . . I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. . . . I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- The *young men* have gained a stage of maturity in which they understand that life on this earth, once a child of God, is a spiritual battle with the “evil one.”

Have Overcome the Evil One vs. 13b

- **They have overcome the “evil one.” This is because they have been forgiven on account of *His name.***
- **Through the forgiveness that comes in Christ, they now have overcoming power regarding the evil one.**

1 John 3:8 *the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

1 John 5:18-19 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

- He does not say they *can* overcome or that they *will* overcome, but they have overcome.
 - They have been transferred from *death to life*, from *darkness to light*.
- *Christians have not overcome by means of their own moral achievement, by the victory won in Christ's death and resurrection.*

Are Strong, God's Word abides In Them vs. 14b

- Two explanatory phrases are added.
 1. *you are strong*,
 2. *the word of God abides in you*.
- Because the word of God, his truth, abides in them, they resist and overcome that which is false.

NOTE: John does not urge the young to defeat these forces. Rather, he says that they have overcome them already (perfect tense again). The Christian life is again recognized as an accomplished fact in terms of position. (Burge p 114)

- When did this victory take place? In the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:13-15 *And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*

APPLICATION

Live with Assurance in Christ

1. The Assurance Our Sins Are Forgiven on Account of Jesus Christ.
2. God the Father Exercises Personal Intimate Fatherhood over Our Lives.
 - We personally know Him through Jesus Christ.
3. We Have Overcome the "Evil One" Through Jesus Christ.
 - It is an accomplished fact with continuous application.
 - We possess all we need to overcome Satan and the world by being Christ.
4. We Are Strong, by Virtue of God's Word.
 - By this we practically stand strong and overcome the "evil one" and the world system.

Value the Christian Community

1. Fathers and Mothers in the Faith

- The Spiritually Experienced Ones, the *Fathers* in John's terminology, are the Anchors of the Faith.
- These are the ones whose experiences and length of time walking with God have given them a seasoned relationship with God and wisdom in the faith.
- It is not mere physical age that gives a person intrinsic spiritual authority in the Church, but one's growth and experiences in walking personally with God.

Burge: “. . . those whose faith reaches far back, who understand the genesis of Christian belief, who recognize the importance of Jesus' life and work, and who know the Scriptures—these women and men are anchors of stability and wisdom and discernment. When such strength is set aside in favor of the exuberant zeal of youth and children, the church becomes vulnerable.” (P. 120)

2. Young Men and Women in the Faith

- Young Believers Are Another Form of Strength in the Church.
- Young believers exhibit a zeal and abandon for God that is contagious.
 - They become strong as they become rooted and grow in God's Word.
 - They become the “warriors” – the prince and princess warriors of the Church.
 - They are eager to study, learn and take territory on the front lines.
 - They are the ones ready to leave their nets and follow Jesus.
- They stimulate and remind us of the battle.


3. Young Children in the Faith

- The excitement, energy, and innocence of brand-new Christians are life-giving, encouraging, and inspiring.
 - I love being around new believing followers of Jesus Christ.
 - I love being around their discovery.
 - When the spiritually young men and women of the faith are absent, the Church is vulnerable to getting stuck and stale and missing God's mission for His Church.
- Some of us might think, wow, it would be great if I could have both maturity and zeal at the same time. Here's the thing: we do! We are the body of Christ! We are not just individual members; we are a body!

FINAL SLIDE

To live with Discernment and Certainty in a World of Persecution, Confusion, and Chaos Requires Living Boldly in a Dynamic Life in God's Vibrant Community!

the epistle of
1 JOHN



LIVING IN DISCERNMENT AND CERTAINTY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

1

1 JOHN

MESSAGE THEME – *Living with discernment and certainty through a dynamic life in God in a vibrant Christian community.*

2

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Children

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THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE IN GOD **1 JOHN**

Children


Identity

Teknia – Offspring of God vs. 12
Paidia – Subordinate position, learning vs. 13

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THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE IN GOD **1 JOHN**


Children
Identity
Position & Characteristic
 Sins Forgiven



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THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE IN GOD **1 JOHN**

Children
Identity
Position & Characteristic
 Sin Forgiven
 You Know the Father




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THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE IN GOD **1 JOHN**

Children
 Fathers

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THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE IN GOD **1 JOHN**

Children
 Fathers

You have known Him who is from the beginning




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THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE IN GOD **1 JOHN**

Children
 Fathers
 Young Men

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THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE IN GOD **1 JOHN**

Children
 Fathers
 Young Men

Have Overcome the Evil One



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13

1 JOHN

THE DYNAMICS OF LIFE IN GOD

Children
Fathers
Young Men
*Have Overcome the Evil One
Are Strong, God's Word abides In Them*

14

1 JOHN

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1 JOHN

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- We Have Overcome the "Evil One" Through Jesus Christ.*
- We Are Strong, by Virtue of God's Word.*

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1 JOHN

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*The Fathers and Mothers
The Young Men and Women
Young Children*

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