

Book of 1 John Series
Message 7
March 24, 2024

Opening Prayer

We started the book with understanding that Jesus is real and He continues to impact us daily not just during His time as deity in flesh

We talked about light and the power of light to drive out darkness and that mankind often prefers darkness and hiding our deeds to being exposed to light.

We looked at both the blood of animals and the blood of Jesus that purifies us from all sin.

Then to what we actually believe and having to live it out.

Last week talking about getting it right in relationships

This week on to stages of life and maturity

1 John 2:12-14 Amplified Version

I remind you, my dear children: Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. You veterans were in on the ground floor, and know the One who started all this; you newcomers have won a big victory over the Evil One.

And a second reminder, dear children: You know the Father from personal experience. You veterans know the One who started it all; and you newcomers—such vitality and strength! God's word is so steady in you. Your fellowship with God enables you to gain a victory over the Evil One.

I have an app on my phone: Thru the Bible Kris Langham

This is how He explains this passage

Consider the audience –John is figuratively looking out at the congregation

He sees 3 generations needing assurance and encouragement

He talks about stages of maturity – speaking to men and women together, all of us

He reiterates things we have already been looking at:

Forgiven for sin – knowing God – overcoming evil- obeying God – knowing God

2 times knowing HIM – this is important enough to be mentioned twice

We know a lot of things but live what we believe.

Reference back to 1: 1-4 we have seen, we have heard, we have touched

We have known HIM, and His life still effects us to this very day

Let's summarize what He says to each – Children – Fathers – Young Men

Children – your sins have been forgiven – you are just starting out –you have a clean slate and clear conscience – He has been purifying you, that is your foundation – clean

In your log book of sin, Jesus wrote His name in as responsible - forgiven on account of His name

You know the Father – you can call him that – it is personal – you are fully adopted – He loves you.

What a great place to be

Fathers –(often used to refer to the Patriarchs) you Know Him – you are mature in the faith – you are experienced – you have taken the beatings that bring understanding –

You KNOW Him – “personal knowledge” and fellowship – not vicarious – you own your faith, it is not just a rental - it is yours.

Deeper sense of experience – you know Him

This is eternal life that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ who you have sent.

You are a little beat up, but standing firm having withstood the storms of life, God is with you and you know the ongoing impact both of Jesus life and death

Young men – you have overcome the evil one (thru Jesus death and resurrection, not something you did yourself) – you are energetic and strong – zealous and confident – brave enough to take on the world and dumb enough to try it – you have a lot to learn yet, but go try it and be victorious

You are strong and the word lives in you – overcome the evil one (thru Jesus not you own effort) – able to do and work and fight the good fight – you need more and the Word is the more. You overcome – persevere and win.

The one in you is greater than the one in the world- He as overcome the world

Great stage of life, filled with hope,energy and promise.

As well as, heartache and angst – feel it all and learn.

As I am pondering this passage and the implications of it, I’m asking the Lord for direction – what is seen in this passage

Life and time marches on, sometimes we get so involved in it we forget that it has progressed and time has passed.

When my father was in the latter stages of his life toward the end, I asked him how old in his mind did he think he was?

Answer: In my mind I am an 18 year old marine, He was almost 80.

Point being sometimes, in our minds we perceive ourselves inaccurately.
What we believe about ourselves and stage of life greatly influence our actions and commitments.

I want us to take a long moment to consider where am I in life?

Where am I relevant? Dave Beuring asks it this way, "In whose ears am I big?"

Relevance means "important to the matter at hand."

If we are no longer relevant, we may not be preserved as important.

Synonyms : connection, bearing, significance, applicability, pertinence, importance.

Our relevance fluxuates over time and in different situations.

Parent – Employer/Employee – Friend - Mentor – Spiritual leader - care giver – donor – influencer – intercessor – etc.

In a Multigenerational church each one will have different levels of maturity and responsibility.

If we are rightly aligned and placed by God, the whole thing works.

As we get ready to grow it is important to take some personal inventory

Stages of Life –

Young – learn - be carefree – try new things succeed/fail – feel the angst of trying/learning

Single – learn – take reasonable responsibility – grow in faith – take risks – experience life

Married – learn – be with your spouse – enjoy time together – make plans – experience life

Married with kids – learn - invest in them – don't forget your spouse – be reasonable in your commitments - experience life

Empty Nest – learn – focus on spouse – take advantage of opportunities not available before – consider changing your commitments to reflect the current season

Empty Nest with ailing parents – learn - Commandment 5 – focus on living without regret – back off on other responsibilities – pay attention to your spouse/family – then rest

Retired – Learn – be relevant – family – look for reasonable responsibilities to take on

Sunset – Learn – diminished capacity – share wisdom – enjoy the time

In all stages: Learn, be relevant where you are, experience life, take on appropriate commitments and always be present with those around you.

Embrace the stage you are currently in, take advantage of the strengths each offer.
Enjoy every stage – don't wish for a different one – God set you in this place for this time and this stage, it is not an accident.

Romans 12. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Desire to be involved – and at what level?

Nursery - Kids – Youth – Prayer – Adult Education – Bible Study – House Church Lead/Host – Worship (choosing Ising sets or playing) – Outreach – Recording and Editing messages – Audio Visual – Sound system – hospitality – coffee bar

Reasonable commitment level

Don't despise any of the stages of life in Christ.

Questions:

How old in your mind do you think you are? And why?

At your current stage of life are you doing the correct Godly things, focusing on the right responsibilities?

What do you think you have to offer the body of Christ and the Kingdom as far as giftings?