

Growing in Christ to grow others, TOGETHER!

1 John 2:12-18

"If you don't see the greatness of God then all the things that money can buy become very exciting. If you can't see the sun, you will be impressed with a streetlight. If you've never felt thunder and lightning, you'll be impressed with fireworks. And if you turn your back on the greatness and majesty of God you'll fall in love with a world of shadows and short-lived pleasures." John Piper

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been 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 am writing 12,13

- Present tense I am writing
- 'little children' new in faith forgiven!
- 'fathers' maturing 'known Him' = doctrine
- 'young men' 'overcoming' growing
- NEVER STOP LEARNING GROWING!

Growing Up

If you summarize what John says about each of the three types of people, it looks like this:

<u>Little Children</u> - Sins are forgiven, know the Father Young Men - Overcome the wicked one, strong, word of God abides in them <u>Fathers</u> - Know Him from the beginning

13 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.

14 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.

I have written 13,14

- Past tense continuing action
- 'little children' 'you know' (paidion) school
- 'fathers' 'you have known' still learning!
- 'young men' 'strong' & 'word remains'
- NEVER STOP LEARNING GROWING!

"We must meet the uncertainties of this world with the certainty of the world to come." A. W. Tozer

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Do not love! 15-17

- 'world' 'in' NOT 'of'
- Boat in the water not water in the boat!
- The World cannot be our savior
- The Things of the World cannot satisfy

Walk WITH

Do not love! 15-17

- Mutually exclusive Father v. World
- 'love the one and hate the other' OR
- 'all that is in the World' 3 categories chart
- Vs 17 passing away and its lusts you won't even want it then!
- C.T. Studd



SENSUALISM MATER	KIALISN	
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HUMANISM

Gen 3

good for food

delight to the eyes

desirable to make wise

Matt 4

stones to bread

all I will give you

cast yourself down

1 John 2

lust of the flesh

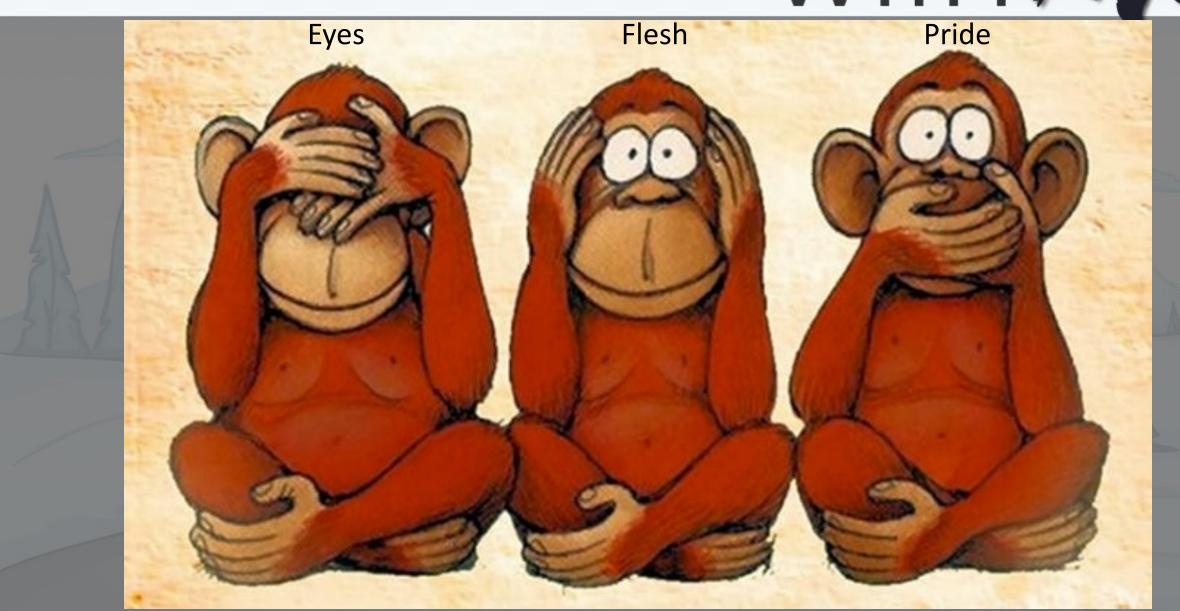
lust of the eyes

pride of life

please yourself

satisfy yourself

uplift yourself



"May the things of this world so lose their power over us that we do not in the slightest wish to be 'worldly'; nay, we even delight in not remaining 'in the world.'" Watchman Nee

"Worldly pleasures, such as flow from greatness, riches, honors, and sensual gratifications, are infinitely worse than none." David Brainerd

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

Do not trust - 18

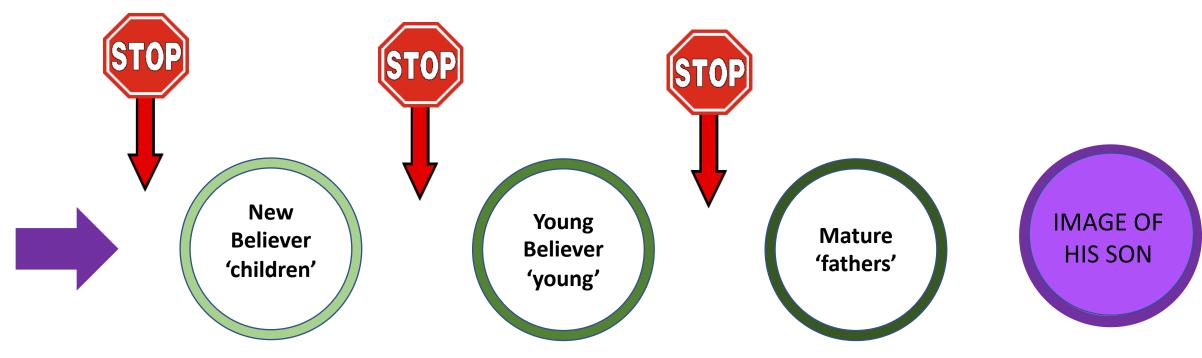
- 'last hour' imminency anytime now!
- Antichrist is coming Revelations (Beast, Destroyer, Serpent, Man of sin...)
- 'antichrists' similar in form NOT in function!

KILLING & FILLING

"The best means of resisting the devil is, to destroy whatever of the world remains in us, in order to raise for God, upon its ruins, a building all of love. Then shall we begin, in this fleeting life, to love God as we shall love him in eternity." John Wesley

What impedes growth? 1 John 2:15

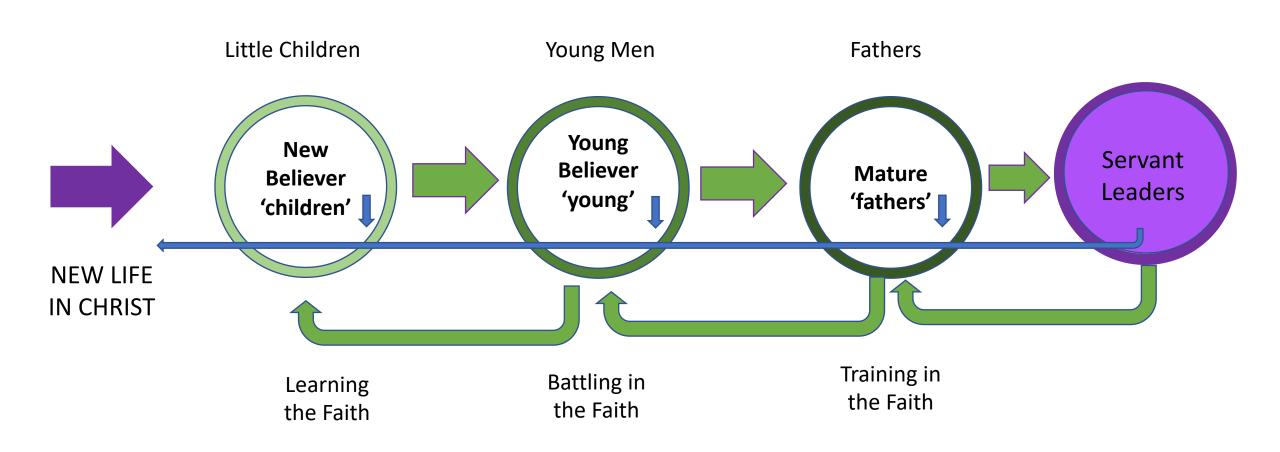
"LOVE NOT THE WORLD NOR THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD!"



NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

NOT BECAUSE GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE NOT BECAUSE GOD'S GRACE IS SHORT IS IT SIN? IS IT DISCIPLINE? IS IT TEACHING? IS IT TRAINING? IS IT LOVE?

GROWING IN CHRIST TO GROW OTHERS!



Quiz Time – Open Book – Open Heart!



New Believer 'children'

Young Believer 'young'

Mature 'fathers'

IMAGE OF HIS SON

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

- Do you have new life?
- What signs of new life do you have?

- Do you doubt your salvation? Why?
- Are there any sins you think God has not forgiven? What are they?
- Why does God want to have a close relationship with you?

- What steps are you taking to deepen your intake of God's Word?
- How do you handle defeat?
- What temptations are you learning to overcome?

- Are you going through any trials right now? Is your faith greater or less?
- Who are you presently discipling?
- Can you share a lesson of life with another to help them?

- To what degree are you becoming made more in Christ's image? Explain.
- Are you presently growing?

"There is a common, worldly kind of Christianity in this day, which many have, and think they have enough - a cheap Christianity which offends nobody, and requires no sacrifice - which costs nothing, and is worth nothing." J. C. Ryle

