

Love & Light

Week 5- Spiritual Maturity

Children

In 2:12-14, The Apostle John calls “Time Out” for a word of encouragement in God’s grace. He writes to 3 groups- Children (new in faith), Fathers (mature in the faith), and Young (growing in the faith).

CHILDREN- V12 “Your sins have been forgiven through Jesus” + V14
“You know the Father”

Believe, Receive, Become

“I AM A CHILD OF GOD THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST”— I want to invite you to start here if you never have! John 1:12-13 tells us, “But to all who believed in him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn- not with physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God!”

Young in the Faith

CHILDREN- V12, 14 “Your sins have been forgiven through Jesus” + “You know the Father”

YOUNG- Vv 13-14 “You have won your battle with the evil one” + “God’s word lives in your hearts”

“Forgiveness of sins is something that the youngest child of God can and should experience. It is foundational to your Christian walk that you know that your sins are forgiven, not because of anything in you, but solely because of what Jesus did for you on the cross. The enemy will repeatedly come to accuse and condemn you for your sins. Answer him every time, not with your performance, but with the name and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.” Steven Cole bible.org

Fathers/Mature

FATHERS- Vs 13 & 14 “You know Christ, who existed from the beginning.” Why is this the mark of spiritual maturity we are all aiming at? Because it is the mark of living with an eternal perspective.

Eternal Perspective

Consider the eternal perspective and spiritual maturity found in verse 2:17, “This world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.”

The Tragic Trade

When we love this world rather than loving God, we are trading the eternal for the temporary. The world offers us 3 things- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life- and if that's what we want, we must take our allegiance and love away from Jesus and the Father and hand it over to the world's way of life. What a tragic trade that is!

The older we get, and the more we grow in spiritual maturity, the more we realize how short this life really is. Learning to live with an eternal perspective will help us not to grow enamored by this fading world nor crave the things it offers us. That is the mark of spiritual maturity- to know Christ who existed from the beginning.