

Sermon Notes

"Words of Reassurance"

1 John 2:12-14

May 2, 2021

5. Why does John say that children know "the Father" (2:14)? See Galatians 4:6-7.

6. In what way have the "young men" conquered the evil one? When in the past did this "conquering" occur, and what are the lingering effects? Consider 1 John 3:8; 4:4; 5:3-5, 18-19.

7. How does John reassure Christians engaged in spiritual warfare against sin (see 2:13-14)? Why are these assurances especially significant for the challenge that John is about to issue (2:15)?

8. Choose one of the assurances in 2:12-14 and explain why it is especially encouraging to you.

I write to you, little children, because ...
your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

I write to you, fathers, because ...
you have known him [who existed] from [the] beginning.

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

I wrote to you, children, because ...
you have known the Father.

I wrote to you, fathers, because ...
you have known him [who existed] from [the] beginning.

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

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 05-02-21

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., 1, 2 & 3 John: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2013, pp. 59-60; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 319-20; Lyman Coleman, et.al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 457.

Getting Started:

1. Can you relate to the challenge of speaking a message to a mixed audience? When have you had to accomplish different objectives with different subsets in a single audience? At home? At work? On social media? What makes this difficult?

Digging Deeper:

Read 1 John 2:12-17.

2. Observe the pattern of John's words in 2:12-14. What is this paragraph about?
3. How are we to understand the author's triple description of his readers as children, fathers, and young men? Literal age groupings? Metaphorical for stages of spiritual maturity? Rhetorical as a way of speaking to everyone? Check a Study Bible or commentary to identify the pros and cons of each possible interpretation.
4. What two complimentary truths about forgiveness does John state in 1:8-10 and 2:12? Why are they both important to remember?