

Christian Growth

1 John 2:12-14

Contextual considerations:

When does John write this?

To whom is John writing?

Why does John write this?

Confirmation and Assurance...

“I write unto you...” (v. 12, 13)

“I have written unto you...” (v. 14)

Why does John repeat himself?

The three Stages of Christian Maturity...

I. “*little children*” - Forgiveness (v. 12, 13c)

Why does John call them “little children?”

(v.12) “*teknia*” - To beget or bring forth...

(v.13c) “*paida*” – To train or Chastise...

Spiritually immature - (1 Cor. 3:1)

II. “*fathers*” - Fellowship (v.13a, 14a)

Why does John call them “fathers?”

Spiritual “adults” – Mature Christians in the congregation...

What makes one Spiritually Mature?

(v.13) “because you have *known* him...”

III. “*young men*” - Fighting (v.13b, 14b)

Why does John call them “young men?”

“Ye have *Overcome*...” You are a *Overcomer*...

How did they Overcome?

The power of the Word... (v. 14b; cf Matt. 4: 4, 7, 10)

IV. Christian Maturity – Continual Progression...

a. Experiencing God’s Forgiveness

b. Enjoying God’s Fellowship

c. Engaged in Fighting the enemy