

The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #7

Maturity The Goal of The Christian Life

I John 2:12-14

I. John's Picture of Growing to Maturity

- A.** Little children
- B.** Young people
- C.** Fathers
- D.** The process
- E.** The difference between spiritual and maturity
- F.** An expected process

II. The Double Message

- A.** I am writing/I write – for emphasis
- B.** Little children/children
 - Your sins are forgiven
 - On account of His name – who He is
 - This is where we begin
 - It should lead to more
- C.** Fathers/Elders
 - You know Him who is from the beginning
 - I John 1:1 – Jesus
 - “We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life”
 - A secure relationship
 - Settled
 - The reality of maturity
 - It's the goal of the Christian life
- D.** Young people
 - You have conquered the evil one
 - You are strong
 - The word of God abides in you
 - You have overcome the evil one from stealing your focus from the Word to other things

- It's what makes us strong

III. Thoughts

- A.** Poor diet and exercise keeps us immature
 - Hebrews 5:11-14
 - “About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.”
 - Dull in understanding
 - Difference between good and evil
 - Can't apply the Word
 - Can't teach others
 - Needs to be taught themselves
 - Milk not meat
- B.** Given the world we live in (I John 2:15) and the urgency of the time (I John 2:18) we need to be mature
- C.** In the church we have and need
 - New believers – forgiven
 - Growing believers – passionate
 - Mature believers - stable
- D.** Where are you in this process?
 - Beginning
 - Middle
 - End
 - Focus on growth and maturity by:
 - 1.** Being assured you're forgiven
 - 2.** Applying His Word and
 - 3.** Resting in the sufficiency of knowing Him