

1 John 2:7-14 Dude where's my bible?

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This morning we are back on our study of 1 John and by way of reminder John is writing this letter for the following reasons.

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1 John 1:4

We are writing these things so that **our joy may be complete.**

1 John 2:1

I am writing these things to you so that **you may not sin.**

1 John 2:26

I write these things to you about **those who are trying to deceive you.**

1 John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you **may know that you have eternal life.**

In summary he is writing this pastoral encouragement so that they would be **Joyful, Holy, Discerning** and above all an **Assured** people. Secure in the knowledge that they truly belong to Jesus and no one will snatch us out of his hand.

Secure people are a happy people.

Secure people don't need to compete with others.

Secure people don't need to be always looking for the acknowledgment of others.

Let's begin at chapter 2 and verse 7.

1 John 2:7-11

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.

10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

There are two forms of deception that we need to avoid to maintain our sense of security in Jesus. The first is from false teaching which this letter covers in detail

and the second is self deception by thinking that we can live just like the world and still believe that we belong to him.

Let's not be deceived. Verse 9 says that if you say you are in the light and you hate your brother you are self deceived, our eyes are blinded and we are still walking in the darkness.

If we truly love our brothers we abide, live or dwell in the light and we can walk securely. Let's keep ourselves from a judgemental attitude toward our brothers and sisters in the church both local and worldwide.

This doesn't mean we should not be discerning and confront false doctrine but let's not attack the person. We must allow God to deal with each of us.

Now let's look at the final few verses.

1 John 2:12-14

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

These verses are interesting for a couple of reasons and it is from these verses that I want to draw out my main point this morning and prophetically what I believe God is wanting to say.

John mentions little children, fathers and young men in that order twice.

First, the little children are the ones who have their sins forgiven for his name's sake and they have knowledge of the father.

My 15yr old daughter and I were watching television the other night and during a news break there was a story of a mother who had a miscarriage in a toilet in one of the local hospitals and she was recounting in tears the horrific story of how she had to flush the foetus down the toilet and the devastating impact this had on her.

My daughter then asked me what happens to children who die like that, do they go to heaven or hell. It just happened to coincide with me looking at verse 12 and then reading to her that little children have their sins forgiven for his name's sake.

Heaven will be filled with all the millions of aborted babies, miscarried babies and little children who have died down through the centuries because their sins have been forgiven even if they are not of an age to know how to ask for forgiveness.

Second, the fathers are mentioned and the two references are identical, because you have known him from the beginning. Fathers within the church are strong, reliable, mature and can be depended upon.

Those of us who have been on the way for a number of years need to take this to heart and live it out. The younger ones are looking to us for stability and a visual picture of what Christian maturity looks like. Let's not disappoint them.

Thirdly, and finally the young men are mentioned and to me this is interesting because chronologically they should be between the little children and the fathers, but on both occasions they come after both of these groups.

Also the encouragements are a little different.

Verse 13, I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

Verse 14, I write to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Verse 14 adds two more encouragements to the beginning of verse 13 and suggests the reasons why they have overcome the evil one.

Young men you are strong and the word of God abides in you.

Dude, where's my bible?

The church needs strong dudes. Dudes who are not afraid 'in God' to take on the devil, to take on the flesh, to take on the world and overcome each one of them for the glory of God.

Guys, you can do it and the church needs you to do it.

The little children are at the beginning of their lives, the fathers are toward the end of their lives, but the young men are in the absolute prime of their lives and are the future of the church.

This doesn't mean we don't want strong young girls also, but guys let me tell you that strong Jesus honoring, bible loving young guys will highly motivate the young girls to be strong in the Lord also.

This morning I want to encourage the young men of City Edge Church to take up your bibles and become so grounded in God's word that it literally lives and comes alive in you.

Jesus was a young man when he took on the devil in the wilderness with nothing more than the verses of scripture that he would have memorized when he was a young kid growing up.

This church within its first year has a disproportionate amount of young men. Young men, like Ryan, John, Justin, Michael, Brydon, Douglas and next week Andrew.

I want to read a prophecy that was given to this church late last year as a way of encouraging you.

*Tony I felt the Lord gave me this word while praying this week. I have called this Church into being. I shall use it to spread my word amongst the **young** in this Nation. I will strengthen this church from within before I move. I need **strong** Christians who are willing to stand strong in the battles for souls, people who are committed to my word and follow its commands and ways. I will not fail you if you do your part. Preach my word; teach my word, live my word. Do not shrink back. The rewards will be great reaching out to the Nations.*

Audrey Clark, City Edge Church September 2009

Young guys are you willing to stand strong in the battles for souls?

Young guys are you committed to his word in such a way that you want to follow its commands and ways?

Young guys are you prepared to fight and not to shrink back?

The rewards for you and the church will be great.

Now how do you do it?

- 1) Use your natural youthful strength to serve Jesus in the church and the world
- 2) Abide in his word. Study it, meditate on it, memorise it, live it.
- 3) Become theologically sound. Don't be frightened to grapple with weighty topics in the scriptures.

Now how can we as a church help you?

- 1) By giving you opportunities to use your strength and serve within the church. *I have worked for the same employer for over 20 years and God has taught me so much about leadership in my work place by serving in the church. The church is an incredible training ground for your future workplaces and for some of you that workplace may just be within the church itself.*
- 2) By you yourselves taking the initiative and asking us "is there anything I can do to help?" and us allowing you to grow in your gifts over a period of time
- 3) By training you in theology and teaching you how to rightly divide the word of truth so that you can fight false views of God and false teachings. To stand up to temptation and the devil by using the word of God as the double edged sword that it is. Wielding it like a skilled warrior.

Guys, don't let the devil or yourselves rob you of your God given destinies to become all that you can become in Jesus. Don't be afraid to stand up for him - he was a young man when he gave everything and stood up for you.