

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 5TH, 2019 // 1 JOHN

MATURING (1 JOHN 2:12-14) THREE SETS OF READERS

John addresses what seems to be three sets of readers: children, fathers, and young men. Is this about chronological age or spiritual maturity?

- This has to do with where they are in their relationship with Jesus.
- One-size-fits-all mentality as later he refers to all of them as "children" and "little children".
- They are all believers but there was some confusion created since "fathers" is out of sequence.
- All-inclusive title but some are more spiritually mature than others.

GROWING IN FAITH

The fact is we ought to grow in our faith and become young men and women in the faith and ultimately spiritual fathers and mothers. What's important is that he's addressing Christians. Some of this letter is tough but John wants them to be confident in their salvation.

TEST OF TRUTH

These are those who have experienced forgiveness and victory in spiritual battle. At the beginning of the chapter he points out that we are to love God and people. That's really the spiritual test. Are we loving God and people?

WARNING (1 JOHN 2:15-17) DON'T LOVE THE WORLD

There's a new danger.

IS THIS CONFUSING?

What about John 3:16? This is why context is so important. There is conflict between love for the Father and love for the world.

- James 4:4 says, "...friendship with the world is hostility toward God."

THREE SPECIFIC ISSUES

- Lusts of the flesh.
- Lusts of the eyes.
- Pride of our possessions.

EVERYTHING ON THE LIST IS TEMPORARY

We are so willing to give up on eternal things for things that are temporary. Phil. 4:13 says, "I have learned the secret of being content..."

WORLDLY DESIRES

The reason we don't love the world is that things of the world are opposed to God. Our cravings and desires draw us away from God.

- When we live for "getting our own way", or to buy everything we want, we're not living for God but the world. We're slowly squeezing God out.

LAST HOUR (1 JOHN 2:18-23) THE LAST HOUR

The meaning here isn't that John really thought they only had an hour. The reference is to bring a sense of urgency to followers of Jesus Christ about His imminent return.

- A schism in the church. Some walked away and thought of themselves as the true followers of Christ.

DECEPTION

Some were walking away from the authentic teaching of the Word of God. They thought they were the true believers but their beliefs were contrary to the gospel. If we can be deceived we will easily be led astray.

- The only way we can prevent deception is to know the Word.

DECEPTION OR CONFUSION?

We talked about confusion earlier but this isn't confusion. This is direct disobedience. Paul told Timothy to hold onto the faith, otherwise some can walk away and suffer shipwreck of their faith (1 Timothy 1:19).

- There's a difference between losing something and walking away from something.

RULES AREN'T THE ANSWER

We can put more rules or safeguards in place to try and help us. However, it would be possible to do all these things and still be prideful, have anger issues, or be greedy and hateful.

- Vs. 20 "But you have the anointing from the Holy One."

LOOK LIKE JESUS

The distinctive of Christians aren't just doing good things. It's possible to do good things and not be a follower of Jesus. Christlikeness isn't just a matter of "dos" and "don'ts." It's a matter of attitude and heart.

- Philippians 2 - Our attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus.

REMAIN IN HIM (1 JOHN 2:28-29) WE HAVE CONFIDENCE

We are promised the Holy Spirit who empowers us with confidence. John said it so many times: "I am writing to you..." The Holy Spirit remains in you.

- John 16:13, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth."

THE PROBLEM

There is always going to be something trying to pull us in another direction. If we're not in a battle where we're overcoming deception from the evil One, maybe it's us. Don't be deceived. As a follower of Christ, the Holy Spirit is in you.

REMAINING IN HIM

- This world is temporary. Are we running after the things of this world?
- If Jesus came to you in this moment, would you be ashamed?
- The Bible gives clarity in a deceptive culture. Read the Word!
- You can know you're a follower of Jesus!