

“THE REASSURANCE OF GROWTH”

6/23/2024

I John 2:12-14



This section acts as a parenthesis, a pause, John uses to get his readers to think.

- “I am writing” little children (12)
 fathers (13)
 young men (13)
- “I have written” little children (13b)
 fathers (14)
 young men (14)

How do you think you’re growing in the Lord?

- Too fast?
 - Too slow?
 - Just right?
 - Not at all?
 - Kind of?
- } You’re at one of these points

3 DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GROWTH JOHN DISCUSSES HERE:

I. Characteristics of the spiritually immature (12, 13)

- A. Addressed to little (dear) children – *τεκνία* (13);
But: *παιδιά* (end of 13) – younger children
He says (v.12) to the ones (in general):
- B. “your sins are forgiven you” (12) (a believer’s standing before God)
Now to the younger children he says:
- C. “you have known the Father” (13b) – know little but the basics; they know they’re saved, with a lot to learn.

BIBLE SPEAKS OF 2 KINDS OF SPIRITUAL INFANTS:

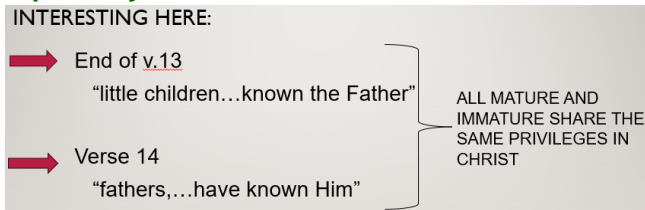
- New in the Lord – newly saved (1 Peter 2:2)
- A Carnal believer – a Christian never intended to stay in the infant stage.
- 1 Corinthians 3:1ff

II. Characteristics of the spiritually adolescent

- A. They have overcome the evil one (13)
- B. You are strong, Word of God abides in you (14b)

III. Characteristics of the spiritually mature

- A. Fathers
- B. They “have known Him from the beginning” (13 & 14)



CONCLUSION:

- So where is your growth now?
- Are you “little children,” new or carnal?
- Are you “youth,” maturing?
- Are you “father,” mature and continuing?
- Do you desire the Word?
- What’s most important is not where you’re at but **are you** growing?