

Light, Love, & Life Series:
How The Incarnation Helps Us Live Out The Sacred
I Am Writing To You
1 John 2:12-14

- I. The Three Categories
 - A. Little children/young men/fathers
 - 1. Some consider this three distinct groups of people John is addressing
 - 2. Some consider these designations as representative of spiritual maturity
 - 3. Another view marks these designations as describing qualities that are present in all the members of the congregation (view presented here)
 - B. The experiences of these “groups” are pictures of the process of sanctification, as a Christian grows in maturity and truth
- II. Growing In Grace
 - A. Little Children/Children
 - 1. The forgiveness of sin, for His name’s sake
 - 2. This is an experience of every believer
 - 3. Though immensely beneficial to us, it is primarily a reflection of the glory of the name of Jesus
 - 4. You know the Father – as a child grows, they long for the intimacy and safety of the Father above most others
 - B. Young men
 - 1. Overcome the evil one
 - 2. You are strong
 - 3. The Word of God abides in you

- 4. These all reflect the proper progress in holiness of any maturing Christian
 - 5. The designation “young men” is less about age and more about the typical association made culturally in the minds of people concerning the ability to fight and make war
- C. Fathers
 - 1. You know Him who was from the beginning
 - 2. A deepening awareness of the depth and greatness of the person and character of God is a mark of the one truly growing in the faith
- III. Self-Evaluation
 - A. Have our sins been forgiven? Do we live in this reality?
 - B. Do we know the Father as the One supplying our security?
 - C. Are we strong in the faith, knowledgeable in the Word, and actively overcoming the evil one?
 - D. Do we have an ever-deepening awareness of the greatness and glory of God?