

The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal waves of light. On the left side, the waves are primarily orange and yellow, resembling fire or a sunset. On the right side, the waves are primarily blue and purple, resembling a nebula or a starry field. The waves flow from left to right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John



What do you think?

- Which is better: to be young or to be old?
- What are some advantages of being young?
- What are some advantages of being old?

Prolegomena

- I find this section very confusing
- The difficulties:
 - A. Why “I am writing” and “I have written”?
 - B. Does *hoti* mean “because” or “that”?
 - C. Who are the *children, fathers, young men*?
 - D. Why the repetition?

Prolegomena

A. *I am writing* vs *I have written*

- 2:12-5:21 vs 1:1-2:11?

- This letter vs another letter (e.g. 2 John)?

- This letter vs his gospel?

- Perspective / point of view

 - As he is writing vs as they are reading

D. Repeated for emphasis

Prolegomena

B. Gr: *hoti* = “because” or “that” (see 1:5)

- Is he writing *because* these things are true of them, or is he writing *to tell* them true things?
- *Because* makes more sense:
 - They should already know these things
 - These things should be true of all believers

C. Why divide *children, fathers, & young men*?

1 John 2:12-14

- *Grow Up*

1. Little Children
2. Fathers
3. Young Men

****This is how I understand it as of today****

Little Children

- Who are the *little children*?
 - *Offspring* -> a term of affection, often used by teachers for their students (see John 13:33)
 - Those in true fellowship with God and other believers (1 John 2:1, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21)
 - Cf. *Children of God* (3:1, 2, 10; 5:2)
 - John wrote “to you who believe” (5:13)

Little Children

- “because your **sins** have been forgiven you”
 - **Sins** – *missing the mark*; deviation from a prescribed law or rule, resulting in missing the true end, which is God (Rom. 3:23)
 - What is *the mark*? Look at Jesus’ life and imitate it (1:1-3; 2:5-6)

Little Children

- “because your sins have been **forgiven** you”
 - **Forgiven** – *release; remit; remove*
 - “To forgive sins is not to disregard them and do nothing about them, but to liberate a person from them, their guilt, and their power.” (S. Zodhiates)

Little Children

- All sin (even if another human is involved) is sin against God (cf. Gen. 39:9; Ps. 51:4)
- Only the one(s) sinned against can forgive
- God hates sin and must punish it (Rom. 1:18)
- For God to forgive us, Someone else had to take our just punishment (Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:21-26)
- Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:1)

Little Children

- *for His name's sake*
 - Or: *on account of His name*
 - *His name* - expression of nature/character
 - E.g. – *Nabal = fool* (1 Sam. 25:25)
- God bases our forgiveness on the Person and work of *Jesus Christ the righteous* (2:1-2; cf. 1:7, 9)

Little Children

- Why is this important?
 - To be born again, we must understand what sin is, how it separates us from God, and what God has done as a remedy (1:9; 2:1; 5:1)
 - It is only by God forgiving us of our sins that we can have fellowship with Him
 - We must hold to apostolic doctrine (1:3; 4:6)

Little Children

- *Little children (12) vs children (13)?*
 - *Children: paidia -> subordinates, pupils*
 - Emphasizes instruction, counsel (*pedagogy*)
 - Addressed to the whole community (see 2:18)
- “you know the Father” – a personal relationship evidenced by obedience to His commands (2:3)

Fathers

- Who are *fathers*?
 - Literal fathers? (e.g. – Eph. 6:4)
 - Older men in general? (see Ps. 37:25)
 - Church leaders? *aka* elders?
 - What about women?
- I don't think this is about *age* or *gender*...

Fathers

- Who are *fathers*?
 - The *mature* – with a proven track record
 - *Him...beginning* – Jesus (cf. 1:1-3)
 - “you know Him” – they have been keeping His commandments for a while (see 2:3-4)
 - They had clearly demonstrated love for Jesus in how they lived their lives (2:5-6)

Young Men

- So, are the *young men* immature?
 - On the right track but with less of a record
 - “you have overcome the evil one”
 - *The evil one* = the devil (see 3:8, 12; 5:19)
 - *Overcome* – at conversion / through Christ
 - Yet an ongoing battle (cf. Matt. 13:19; Eph. 6:16; 2 Thess. 3:3; Rev. 2-3)

Young Men

- Characteristics of *young men*:
 - “you are strong” – *spiritually* (cf. Eph. 6:10)
 - “the word of God abides in you” – the source of their strength (cf. John 15:7)
 - *What you heard from the beginning* (2:24)
 - “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.” (Ps. 119:9)

Young Men

- Characteristics of *young men*:
 - “you are strong” – *spiritually* (cf. Eph. 6:10)
 - “the word of God abides in you”
 - God communicates *the truth* in His word
 - We must let God’s truth take up permanent residence within us (1:8, 10; cf. 2:4-5)
 - Freedom/sanctification (John 8:32; 17:17)

Why did John write 2:12-14?

- Written to believers so they would know they have eternal life (5:13)
 - John is acknowledging the evidence in their lives – they pass the tests! (1:5-2:11)
 - Expressing confidence in their position
 - Giving assurance of their standing
- Laying the groundwork for exhortation

So What?

- Do you know that your sins have been forgiven?
- Is there evidence that you know God? (2:3-6)
- Do you see victory in your life?
- Does the word of God (*the truth*) abide in you?
 - Do you have spiritual strength to overcome?
 - Living life based on God's perspective brings true freedom (John 8:31-32)