

1 JOHN 2:12-17 (NASB)

¹²I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning.

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

I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

¹⁴I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning.

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

¹⁵Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

REVIEW

John reminds his beloved friends (his "children", in 2:18) that we have been open and honest with ourselves and God – letting him do the work of inward healing. By taking this humble posture, we can see our neighbor with unselfish and unconditional love. The Apostle then provides a list of affirmations to those belonging to the family of God and a reminder of their identity in Christ.

STUDY

- John writes verses 12 to 14 with repetition, much like a poem or a song. He writes to the little children, young men, and fathers (twice each). What does he repeat? What is unique in each phrase?

- What does John say to the "children"? (12, 13)
- What are the attributes of the fathers? Of the young men? (13, 14)
- How does repetition help us learn biblical truths?
- What does it mean to "not love the world nor the things of the world"? (15-16)
- What makes the world or its ways so dangerous? (16).
- What helps the believer overcome the evils of the world or the evil one? (one hint in v.14)
- Is there a way to love the world *correctly*? (i.e., John 3:16)
- How is the world "passing away"? Why does this matter? (17)
- What is the promise made to those who do the will of God? (17)
- How do we know what the *will of God* is?

APPLY IT

- Several times, John mentions how fathers and young men *know God*. What does it mean to *know God*? Do you know Him?
- Overcoming evil and the dangers of this world seem to be central in this passage. How have *you* overcome these things?
- How do you practice a healthy rejection of the ways of this world?
- How do you practice an unhealthy acceptance of the ways of this world?

WORD LIST

- *Lust* – The intense desire and craving for someone or something. Desires are most often *good*. But without self-control, an overwhelming desire like lust seeks to obtain what is outside of God's will, namely, whatever God has forbidden through His law.