

**Study #4**  
1 John 2:12-17

**Review - Assurance of Salvation**

**1. What is the context of the book and the reason for John writing this epistle?**

*(Vs. 5:13) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

**2. Last week John encouraged his audience to test their faith in two areas, what were they?**

**3. What were some things that stuck out to you from last weeks study?**

**4. Was there anything from these past weeks that has encouraged your walk with Christ?**

## **Today's Study**

### **The Stages of Spiritual Growth (2:12-14)**

#### **Read the following passage**

*12 I am writing you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his names sake. 13 I am writing you, fathers because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing you young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write you, fathers because you know him who is from the beginning. I write you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

**1. In the passage, there are three groups of people that John addresses—who are they?**

**2. The groups 'children,' 'fathers,' and 'young men,' are referring to the believer's spiritual maturity. How does John encourage the spiritual 'children?'**

**3. How does John encourage the spiritual 'fathers?'**

**4. How does John encourage the spiritual 'young men?'**

**5. What are some things the Paul writes that spiritual children are prone to do? Eph 4:14-15 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by**

*craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.*

### **The Love that God Hates - (2:15-17)**

*15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

**1. In verse 15 what does John say not to love?**

**2. What does John mean by world, and the things in the world?**

**3. In Verse 16, John gives three categories the world entices people to sin, and as Christians we are not to love—what are they?**

**4. As Christians we are to love the things that God loves and hate the things that God hates.**

*Ps. 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

*Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*Prov. 8:13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.*

*Romans 12:9-10 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*

*Prov. 6:16-19 There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*

**According to these passages what things in the world are you to love and what things are you to hate?**

**5. In the flesh, humanity functions according to its base desires or feelings. What are some desires listed in this passage? What does Paul warn the church if they make a practice of fulfilling those desires?**

*Gal 5:19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**6. The world entices sinners to thoughts and actions opposite to Gods will through the eyes. And with the eyes individuals seek to have more than others. How does world tempt through the eyes?**

**7. Pride is a reflection of our hearts desire to rebel against God. Pride seeks to elevate self above everyone else. What are some ways you see pride as the bases for sin in this world?**

**8. Gen 3:1-7 Is the fall of humanity into sin. How did Satan use the three categories of sin to entice eve to sin? (Vs. Gen 3:6)**

*1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*

**9. Luke 4:1-13 is the temptation of Jesus. How did Satan use these three categories to try and tempt Jesus to sin?**

*1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." 4 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" 5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 And Jesus*

*answered him, "It is written, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" 9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here, 10 for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and 11 "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." 12 And Jesus answered him, " It is said, 'you shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.*

**10. What did Jesus use to defend and defeat the temptations from Satan?**

### Teaching Notes

#### Stages of sanctification (Vs. 12-14)

**(Vs. 12,13c) I am writing you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his names sake.....I write to you, children, because you know the father.**

**1. The assurance to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(Vs. 13b, 14b) I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.....I write to you young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.**

**2. The assurance to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(Vs. 13a, 14a) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.....I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.**

**3. The assurance to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### The Love that God Hates (Vs. 7-11)

**(Vs. 15a) Do not love the world or the things in the world.**

**1. A command \_\_\_\_\_ to love the world.**

**(Vs. 15b-17). If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is**

**passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of Gods abides forever.**

**2. Reasons \_\_\_\_\_ are not to love the world.**

**a. Because of who believers \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 15b).**

**b. Because of what the world \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 16).**

**c. Because of where the world is \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 17).**

### **Application Questions**

**1. The groups 'children,' 'fathers,' and 'young men,' are referring to the believer's spiritual maturity. Where are you in your walk with the Lord? How can you mature more in your sanctification?**

**2. 'Agape' is the Greek word for love. Love or 'agape' is not an emotion or feeling, but a steady devotion of the will. How can you love God more and love the world less?**

**3. What can you do as a Christian women to look more like Jesus and less like Eve?**

**4. What are some areas in your life that you are tempted to follow after your desires of the flesh and eyes, and succumb to the pride in your heart?**

