

First John

1 Jn. 2:7-14



Sonship



Fellowship



Fruitfulness

1 Jn. 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.



13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.



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1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

(2) A critical examination, 2:7-8

(a) The previous commandment, 2:7

1 Jn. 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

- The commandment is “old” regarding a known fact, but “new” in the effectiveness being practiced.

Jn. 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Jn. 15:9, As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. ...

12 This is my commandment, That **ye love one another, as I have loved you.** ...

17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Rom. 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to **love one another**: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

1 Thess. 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God **to love one another.**

1 Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye **love one another** with a pure heart fervently:



1 Jn. 3:11, For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should **love one another**. ...

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another**, as he gave us commandment.

1 Jn. 4:7 Beloved, let us **love one another**: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ...

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to **love one another**.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we **love one another**, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

2 Jn. 1:5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we **love one another**.



(b) The present commandment, 2:8

- i. The test of new life in Christ, 2:8a “Again, a new commandment I write unto you, **which thing is true in him and in you...**”
- ii. The test of new light through Christ, 2:8b “...because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.”

Lev. 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but **thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**: I am the LORD.



c. The test of the Lord's people, 2:9-11

(1) The principle stated, 2:9

1 Jn. 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

1 Jn. 1:6 **If we say** that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ...

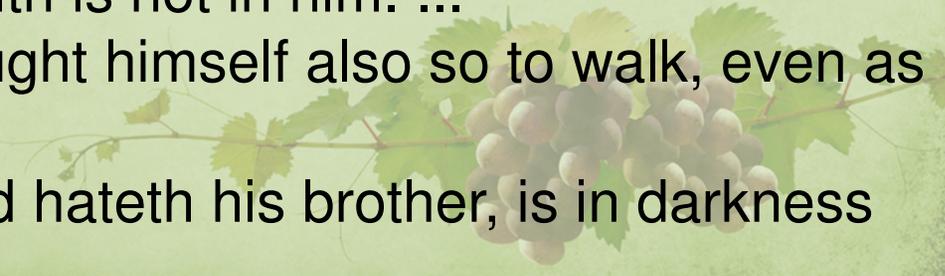
8 **If we say** that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ...

10 **If we say** that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 Jn. 2:4 **He that saith**, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ...

6 **He that saith** he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

9 **He that saith** he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.



(2) The principle studied, 2:10-11

(a) Loving one's brethren, 2:10

1 Jn. 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

Original Word: σκάνδαλον

Transliteration: skandalon

Definition: a snare, stumbling-block, cause for error.

skándalon – properly, the trigger of a trap (the mechanism closing a trap down on the unsuspecting victim); (figuratively) an *offense*, putting a *negative cause-and-effect relationship* into motion.

skándalon ("the means of stumbling") stresses the *method (means)* of *entrapment*, i.e. how someone is caught by *their own devices* (like their personal bias, carnal thinking).

["(*skándalon*) is *the native rock* rising up through the earth, *which trips up* the traveler, hence, of Jesus the Messiah, to the Jews who refused him" (Souter); "properly, the *bait-stick* of a trap, *a snare, stumbling-block*" (Abbott-Smith); "the stick in the trap that springs and closes the trap when the animal touches it" (WP, 1, 46).] <http://biblehub.com/greek/4625.htm>

Rom. 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that **no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.**

(b) Loathing one's brethren, 2:11

1 Jn. 2:11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

- The hater's sin affects him in three ways:
 - It places him "in darkness," outside of God's fellowship.
 - It leads to aimless activity ("walketh in darkness") in which he is in great spiritual danger, and in which there is the possibility of a fall.
 - It also results in mental confusion ("knoweth not whither he goeth")
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Jn. 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for **he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.**

4. The Beauty of that Life, 2:12-14

a. The first round of reasons, 2:12-13b

(1) Little children: because of their condition in the family, 2:12

1 Jn. 2:12 **I write unto you**, little children, **because** your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

Original Word: τεκνίον

Transliteration: teknion

Definition: a little child. (little born ones)

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5040.htm>



(2) Fathers: because of their concept of the faith, 2:13a “**I write unto you**, fathers, **because** ye have known him that is from the beginning...”

Original Word: γινώσκω

Transliteration: ginóskó

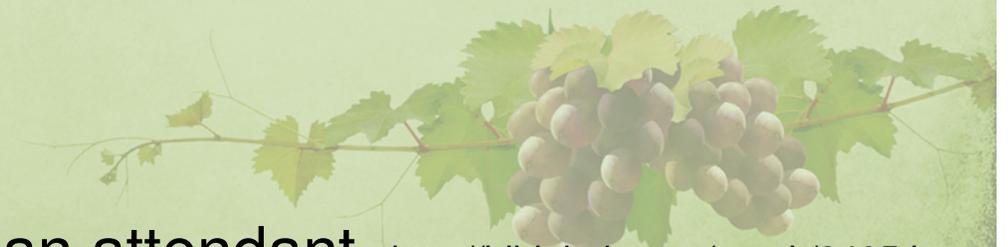
Definition: I am taking in knowledge, come to know, learn; aor: I ascertained, realized. <http://biblehub.com/greek/1097.htm>

(3) Young men: because of their conquest of the foe, 2:13b “...**I write unto you**, young men, **because** ye have overcome the wicked one...”

Original Word: νεανίσκος

Transliteration: neaniskos

Definition: a young man, youth, an attendant. <http://biblehub.com/greek/3495.htm>



Original Word: νικάω

Transliteration: nikaó

Definition: I conquer, am victorious, overcome, prevail, subdue.

Nikáō (from *níkē*, "victory") – properly, *conquer* (overcome); " 'to carry off the victory, come off victorious.' The verb implies a battle" (K. Wuest). <http://biblehub.com/greek/3528.htm>

- The spiritual growth pattern follows a chronological example:
 - Little children = appreciates forgiveness as a new believer,
 - Fathers = then appreciates having fellowship with Christ,
 - Young men = then overcomes "the evil one."

b. The further round of reasons, 2:13c-14



(1) Little children: because of their progress, 2:13c "...**I write unto you**, little children, **because** ye have known the Father. "

Original Word: παιδίον

Transliteration: paidion

Definition: a little child, an infant, little one.

paidíon – properly, a child under training; the *diminutive* form of *país* ("child"). *paidíon* ("a little child in training") implies a *younger* child (perhaps seven years old or younger). Some scholars apply (*país*) to a son or daughter *up to 20 years old* (the age of "*complete adulthood*" in Scripture).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3813.htm>



(2) Fathers: because of their perception, 2:14a “**I have written unto you**, fathers, **because** ye have known him that is from the beginning...”

(3) Young men: because of their power, 2:14b-d

(a) How it is described, 2:14b
“...**I have written unto you**, young men, **because** ye are strong...”



Original Word: ἰσχυρός

Transliteration: ischuros

Definition: strong (originally and generally of physical strength); mighty, powerful, vehement, sure.

isxyrós (an adjective, derived from *isxys*, "engaging, combative strength") – *mighty, strong*. For the believer, (*isxyrós*) is God's power "standing by" – ready to *unleash* itself to bring about His preferred-will, through faith (cf. *thélēma, pístis*). This *engaging* strength is *always and immediately available* from the Lord, which accomplishes *His assignments* (cf. 1 Jn 5:4).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2478.htm>

(b) How it is derived, 2:14c

“...and the word of God abideth in you...”



Psa. 119:9 Wherewithal shall a **young man** cleanse his way? by **taking heed thereto according to thy word.**

10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

11 **Thy word have I hid in mine heart**, that I might not sin against thee.

(c) How it is displayed, 2:14d
“...and ye have overcome the wicked one.”

1 Jn. 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**



- The spiritual growth pattern indicates growth:
 - Little children = are learning as disciples,
 - Fathers = are knowledgeable by experience,
 - Young men = are strong.
 - Martin Luther was 34 when he nailed the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg.
 - John Bunyan was 32 when he was jailed for preaching.
 - George Mueller was 27 when he moved to Bristol to open an orphanage.
 - William Booth was 36 when he founded the Salvation Army.
 - David Brainerd was 25 when he set out to convert the American Indians.
 - William Carey was 32 when he sailed to India and launched modern missions.
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Conclusion

2 Cor. 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Psa. 17:6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.

7 Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

8 **Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,**

9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about. ...

15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.