

TWO LOVES
1 John 2:12-17
2/29/04

1. Four Stages Of Spiritual Maturity 2:12-14

a. Little children (teknon) v. 12

- new believers
 - ◆ *children of God*
 - ◇ cf John 1:12; 3:3
 - ◆ *sins are forgiven*
 - ◇ sins
 - ◇ forgiven
 - ◆ *for His name's sake*
 - ◇ Because of what Christ did for us.
 - ◇ even though they are not perfect

b. Children (paidion) v. 13c

- spiritual grade-schoolers
 - ◆ You know the Father

c. Young men (neaniskos) vv. 13b, 14b

- spiritual adolescents
 - ◆ *You have overcome the evil one*
 - ◆ *You are strong*
 - ◆ *The word of God abides in you*
 - ◇ This is the reason that they are victorious. cf Ephesians 6
 - ◆ Their major vulnerability is pride and a critical spirit.

- ◇ **1 Peter 5:5-6** You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. 6
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

d. Fathers (pater) vv. 13a, 14a

- Spiritually mature
 - ◆ *You know Him*
 - ◇ A life of developing a deep intimate experiential understanding of God.
 - ◇ They are mature, stable Christians.

2. Two Loves 2:15-17

a. Do not love the world nor the things in the world. v. 15a

- **James 4:4** You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
 - ◆ Doesn't John 3:16 say that God loves the world?
- We are to love the people in this world, but not the system of ideas and values that are in opposition to God.
 - ◆ This world system is under the control and influence of Satan.
 - ◇ 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - ◇ 1 John 5:19
 - ◆ *Many people are driven by a desire for the things of this world.*

◇ *Their desire to acquire becomes the whole goal of their lives.*

◇ *They believe that having more will make them happier, more important, and more secure.*

◆ The love of the things of this world will tempt you with all kinds of evil.

◇ **1 Timothy 6:10** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

b. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. v. 15b

• You can't love both God and this world

◆ **Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

◆ On Sunday many Christians worship God; who on week days have little or no place in their thoughts for God.

c. For 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. v. 16

• Those things which the world appeals to and promotes are not from God.

◆ **lust of the flesh-** personal appetites and desires

◇ Desire for physical pleasure- sex, drugs, alcohol, music, entertainment, leisure

◆ **lust of the eyes-** Covetousness

◇ desire for things- I have to have it.

- ◇ This is the reason that so many people are up to their eyebrows in debt.
 - ◇ pornography
 - ◆ **pride of life**
 - ◇ Seen in self-promotion- the desire for recognition (house, car, job, looks, achievements, possessions)
 - ◇ Desire for power and control over self and others
 - ◇ Rebellion and self-will
- The message of our culture is that you need to be your own person.
 - ◆ Set your own rules
- The world tells us that the major purpose of life is to pursue happiness and personal fulfillment here and now.
 - ◆ “After all you only go around once in life.”
- Experiencing life to the fullest.
 - ◆ “Grab all the gusto you can.”
- *The Bible teaches that the purpose of life is not about you.*
 - ◆ *The purpose of life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness.*
 - ◆ *When we live in the light of eternity our focus changes from “How much pleasure I am getting out of life to how much pleasure God is getting out of the way I live my life.*
 - ◇ You cannot fulfill God’s purposes for your life while focusing on your own plans.

- *Too many people try to use God for their own purposes and self-actualization.*
 - ♦ *Life is letting God use you for his purposes.*
- *In spite of all the advertising around us, life is really about living for God and not ourselves.*
- **2 Timothy 3:1-5** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

d. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; v. 17a

- Life is temporary.
- *It was God's property before you arrived, and God will loan it to someone else after you die.*

e. but the one who does the will of God lives forever. v. 17b

- *Life is a trust.*
 - ♦ God has entrusted you with a life purpose.
 - ♦ God has entrusted you with time, energy, intelligence, opportunities, relationships, spiritual gifts and financial resources.
 - ◇ The question is if you use what He has entrusted you with for Him or for yourself.
 - ◇ Parables of stewardship.
- *Life is a test of your character and faithfulness.*
- What is the will of God for our lives?

1. That you come to know and love God above else.

◇ Mark 12:29-31 Greatest commandment

2. That you and I love other believers.

◇ Second greatest commandment

◇ Romans 15:7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

3. That grow spiritually and become more and more like Christ.

◇ Rom 12:2; 2 Cor 3:18; Matt 5:44

4. That we serve others with our gifts.

◇ **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

5. That we tell others about Him.

◇ Matthew 28:19-20

- Only a life lived for God will count in eternity.

◆ *This life is not all there is.*

◇ *There is more to life than just the here and now.*

◇ *You will spend far more time on the other side of death- in eternity- than you will here.*

◆ *Most people are playing Trivial Pursuit with their lives.*

◇ *Lives of aimless and meaningless distraction.*

◆ *What ultimately matters is not how much fun you had or what others say about your life, but what God says.*

◇ *Romans 14:12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.*

◆ *God will want to know two things.*

◇ *What did you do with My Son, Jesus Christ?*

◇ *What did you do with what I gave you? (gifts, talents, opportunities, energy, relationships, and resources.)- Did you spend them on yourself, or did you use them for God's purposes?*

◆ **Acts 13:36** "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;

- We should live our lives for God out of love and gratitude to Him.

◆ **2 Corinthians 5:14** For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

◆ **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.