



09 AUGUST 2026 AM

1 John 2:12-14

TRIBE-6

= a close-knit community with shared identity

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1 Corinthians 13:11

INTRODUCTION

A DEVELOPMENT TEST 2:12-14

NOTE: last Sunday night, I continued in this series with **First John 2:7-11**...there, John challenged his family to work out their misunderstandings and stop hating one another...

now, John builds on that challenge by having believers evaluate the development of their relationship with Christ

- in this morning's text, John gives us another test by which to measure ourselves

in **1 John 2:3-6**, we have a **DEVOTION TEST**

how much do we love God?

now, in **1 John 2:12-14** we have a **DEVELOPMENT TEST**

how far have we progressed in our walk with the Lord?

- in this passage, John speaks to three groups of people, all at various stages of growth

in order, they are:

children

fathers

young men

NOTE: though masculine, they are used in the neutral

- notice what John actually says to each:

LITTLE CHILDREN

your sins are forgiven
you have known the Father

FATHERS

you have known him that
is from the beginning 2x

YOUNG MEN

you have overcome the
wicked one
you are strong, the Word of
God abideth in you and you
have overcome the wicked
one

NOTE: I am not sure why John chose to address these groups in the particular order he did, but for the sake of clarity, I will address them in the order of maturity

1. LITTLE CHILDREN **verses 12-13**

I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. **13** I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

THEY ARE STILL LEARNING

John used two different words that are translated as *children*:

the first word he used was *teknion*, which refers to *an infant or newborn*

in order to be saved, we must become as children with a simple understanding of our need for forgiveness

Matthew 18:3

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

consider the Old Testament...in *Exodus*, while still living in bondage, all the Israelites knew was that blood had to be applied in order to avoid death

but in *Leviticus*, God began to expound on that blood and give them instructions concerning the offerings and the blood that should be sacrificed regularly

for his name's sake...

it seems so simple really...Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. **Acts 4:12**

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

THEY ARE BEGINNING TO TRUST

the second word used is *paidion* (toddler)

Jesus' first recorded words in scripture were a reference to God as His Father

Luke 2:49

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

in the Old Testament, the concept of God as Father is rare and His names are much more formal in nature

El Shaddai

Jehovah Nissi

Jehovah Rapha

Jehovah Tsidkenu

but Jesus taught us to call Him **ABBA**
ie daddy, papa

Mark 14:36

And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. **3**

Rom 8:14-15 Gal 4:6

2. YOUNG MEN **verses 13-14**

I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. **14** 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.

THE WICKED ONE DEFEATED

NOTE: in both lists, young men are mentioned last, seeming to indicate their importance

Acts 2:17

...your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams...

the wicked one is satan...Jesus called him that

John 17:15 keep them from the wicked one

and Jesus told us to pray the same way

Matthew 6:13 deliver us from evil

further, Jesus warned about the wicked one in
His parables

Matthew 13:19 then cometh the wicked one,
and catcheth away that which was sown in
his heart.

Matthew 13:38-39 tares are the children of
the wicked one

NOTE: we are told to FLEE many things:

fornication, lust	1 Corinthians 6:18
idolatry	1 Corinthians 10:14
love of money	1 Timothy 6:9-11
youthful lusts	2 Timothy 2:22

but we are never told to flee the wicked one...rather, we
are to *resist* him and he will *flee* from us **James 4:7**

THE WORD IS ABIDING IN THEM

these young men were **STRONG** ('mighty')

Proverbs 20:29

The glory of young men is their strength:
and the beauty of old men is the gray head.

they were strong because of the Word of God

abide = to stay; remain

this word is related to patience

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the
sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Hebrews 4:12 sharper than any two-edged sword

apparently, these young men had put away childish
things and desired the meat of the Word

1 Corinthians 13:11

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a
child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I
put away childish things.

Hebrews 5:14

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full
age, even those who by reason of use have their senses
exercised to discern both good and evil.

NOTE: consider some great young men of the faith:

George Müller	27 years old
John Bunyan	32 years old
William Booth	36 years old
David Brainerd	25 years old
William Carey	15 years old six languages
	32 years old to India

3. FATHERS **verses 13-14**

I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. **14** I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning.

FROM THE BEGINNING

John has used this word **9X** in this letter

*notice the italics...*either John is talking about knowing the eternal God...or he is referring to the fathers' long walk with God

it is interesting that with the young children, John said they knew *the Father*

but here, the fathers know **HIM**...this is because God is so much more known now

some things only come with age

metaphorically, there are not many *fathers* in the family of God...so many do not grow up this far

Ephesians 4:14-15

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ...

FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES

understand, for the fathers this is not the **DEEPER** Christian life John has been showing to us

it is simply *the* **CHRISTIAN** life...what we should all strive to attain

Psalms 103:7

He made known his ways unto Moses,
his acts unto the children of Israel.

John says the same thing twice, because at this stage in life, what else is to be added?