

How Can You Know That You Know You Have Eternal Life?

March 3, 2024

John's encouragement to the church (2:12-14)

The church is an intergenerational mix of young and old who have been forgiven their sins, know God, and have overcome the evil one

1. "Dear children" refers to **all** in the church (also 2:18, 28)
 - o Their sins are forgiven. How? "On account of His name" Jesus Christ, our substitutionary sacrifice (see 2:2)
 - o They have known the **Father**
2. "Fathers" refers to the **older** men (also 1 Tim. 5:1-2)
 - o They know Christ, the One from the beginning (see 1:1)
3. "Young men" those in our student ministry
 - o Have overcome the evil one **victorious** in Him
 - o Are strong **valiant** for Him
 - o The word of God lives in them **vitalized** by Him

John's warning to the church (2:15-17)

It is tempting to add a just little bit of Jesus to a little bit of the world and think we are going to be fine. That is not from God and deadly.

1. An either/or **choice** (see James 4:4)
What a minute . . . I thought God loved the world (John 3:16)?
*God's love **for** the world was self-sacrificing to rescue sinners.*
*John's against a self-gratifying love **of** the world to enable sin.*
2. Consider the source
The world offers an **endless** supply of **empty** promises sourced in covetous desires that do not satisfy.
3. Know the outcome
"The Rise and Fall of **Everyone**" (currently passing away) but those who practice doing God's will remain **forever** .

On Your Own (Better with Others)

Highly recommended It can be challenging to follow the outline of this short book. There are a lot of seemingly unrelated sections. The epistle is cyclical, not linear. 1 John is a poetic sermon with repeated emphasis on God's truth and light and love. I found this video very helpful <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-3-john/> .

1. Are you 100% certain beyond a shadow of a doubt that God has forgiven your sins because your confidence is placed entirely in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross in your place, bearing your punishment and removing guilt, shame, fear? Why does the apostle John put this at the beginning of his encouragement to the church (1 John 2:12)?
2. Name some of the Fathers/Mothers in our church. These are senior saints, the older ones among us who have known and walked with Christ for a longer time than most.
3. Name some of the young men/women in our church? These are the youth among us, the younger ones with great energy, courage and strength for spiritual conflict.
4. Suggest ways that we can appreciate and affirm the various ages and stages of people in our church. What is your age group's contribution to the spiritual life of our fellowship?
5. How can Christians love the people in world yet not buy into the world's values, drawing significance from our possessions, performance, or appearance?
6. READ John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:29; 10:37; and 17:4. What was the primary purpose and ultimate focus of Jesus' earthly life?