

Theme: All Christians enjoy the forgiveness of sins, know God, and have overcome Satan.

I. Intro - John's Symphony of Threes

A. The purpose of this section

1. Reassures readers of position in Christ
2. Prepares them for 2:15-17

B. John has been using a structure of threes

1. 1:5-2:2 – 3 false claims; 3 true responses
2. 2:3-2:11 – 3 claims and 3 tests for claims
3. Also in 3 temptations of world (2:16)
4. Note - these often 3 angles of same reality

C. This continues in the present passage

1. Three groups - children, fathers, young men
2. Last group – ends with 3 traits

II. Understanding the Three Groups

A. This could be referring to the distinct groups in church

¹² I write to you, dear children...

¹³ I write to you, fathers...

I write to you, young men...

I write to you, dear children...

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers...

I write to you, young men... 1 John 2:12–14

1. Some - writing to new, growing & mature believers
2. This is certainly straight forward; John Stott held this

3. John would be rehearsing strength of each group
4. Believers can fall in these groups & strengths

B. This could be two groups within the church

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1. Children applies to all Christians -

- a. This is how John normally uses this term
- b. Unusual order - children, fathers, young men
- c. Order makes sense if children is all believers

2. Fathers - mature; young men - young, growing

3. Greek fathers, Luther, Calvin held this view

C. Rhetorical device - each refers to all believers

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1. Rhetorical device in poetic, stylized section

2. Characteristics certainly apply to these groups

3. Three groups following pattern of threes

4. But really everything said applies to all believers

III. Our Authentic Inheritance In Christ

A. Our sins were forgiven through Christ (v12)

I write to you, dear children, because **your sins have been forgiven on account of his name**. 1 John 2:12

1. This is a key part of the Gospel - sins forgiven
All the prophets testify about him that **everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name**. Acts 10:43 (Peter)

Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that **through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you**.³⁹ **Through him everyone who believes is justified** from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. Acts 13:38–39 (Paul)

2. It is the first thing we experience as believers
3. A key issue in 1 John - 1 John 1:7; 1:9; 2:1-2
4. This is only true in Christ - on account of His name
5. This is our inheritance - sins forgiven

B. We have come to know God and Christ

I write to you, fathers, because **you have known him who is from the beginning**... I write to you, dear children, because **you have known the Father**. 14 I write to you, fathers, because **you have known him who is from the beginning**. 1 John 2:13–14

1. Children know their parents - and we know God
2. As children, we have come to know the Father
3. Fathers have life experience, deep knowledge
4. We have also come to know Christ - Him Who is

from the beginning (1:1)

5. John will bring in the Spirit in 2:20; 3:24; 4:13
6. Repeated because Gnostics said Christians did not really know God
7. We know God
 - a. Personally & relationally - not just as judge but as Father
 - b. Intimately and experientially - not just mentally
8. This is our inheritance - we know God

C. We were given victory over Satan

I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.¹⁴ ... I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. 1 John 2:13–14

1. He mentions young men because of strength, vigor
2. Alliteration in Greek (neaniskoi, nenikekate)
3. They have overcome the evil one - Satan
 - a. Could be just 'evil' - but similar uses seem to point to a person, not just evil
 - b. The evil one - Satan, the deceiver
4. They have conquered and vanquished Satan
5. v14 expansion - they overcome because in Christ
 - a. They are strong
 - b. The Word of God lives in them

6. This is pictured in Revelation 12:9-11
The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹ They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12:9–11

- a. Satan has been cast down - accomplished fact
- b. We participate in this victory - it is Christ's victory

7. This is our inheritance - overcoming Satan

D. Again, note the use of perfect tense

12 children, because your sins **have been forgiven** ...
13 fathers, because you **have known him**.
young men, because you **have overcome the evil one**.
dear children, because you **have known the Father**.
14 fathers, because you **have known him**
young men, because ... you **have overcome the evil one**. 1 John 2:12–14

- 1. Perfect - past event with ongoing, present effects
- 2. Speaking of what happened at conversion
- 3. This is same pattern as 1 John 2:3-11
- 4. These things are the inheritance of every believer
- 5. Not for a select few - it is God's gift to every believer
- 6. Not the result of a 2nd blessing - part of conversion

IV. Applying the Word

A. All of this is the inheritance of every believer

- 1. Have I embraced Christ in faith?
 - a. You do not work to earn these things
 - b. Forgiveness, knowing God, defeating Satan are gifts
 - c. Have you received Christ?
- 2. As a believer - do I know all of this is mine?
 - a. Do not think it is for some select group
 - b. All of these things are your in Christ!
 - c. You are forgiven - even when you feel guilty!
 - d. You know God - even when your faith seems weak
 - e. Your overcome Satan - even when knocked down
 - f. The victory is God's gift to us - walk in it!

B. Communion - The Table of Authentic Inheritance

- 1. This Table points to the guarantee of inheritance
 - a. It is ours because of Christ's obedience & sacrifice
 - b. It is ours because of Christ's covenant oath
 - c. It is our because of Christ's body and blood
- 2. Come, receive, and embrace your inheritance

Our Authentic Inheritance In Christ

1 John 2:12-14

May 17, 2015

Communion

Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Blessing; salvation and deliverance; union with Christ; encouragement

The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

12 I write to you, dear children,
because your sins have been forgiven on
account of his name.

13 I write to you, fathers,
because you have known him who is from the
beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, dear children,
because you have known the Father.

14 I write to you, fathers,
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1 John 2:12–14