

1 John 005 2021

5/30/21

## Who We Are In Christ

### 1 John 2:12-14

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. Writing to Christians:

- *In last week's study John told how to know that we know God.*
- *There's evidence in the Christian life proving salvation.*
  1. – We obey God.
    - a. The first evidence of knowing God is obedience to Him which doesn't mean perfect obedience to the law for no man can live perfectly, even after salvation.
    - b. Rather Christian obedience is an obedience of faith, desiring & striving to obey God.
    - c. By faith we trust God to empower us to obey Him.
  2. – We live like Jesus.
    - a. To be saved is entering the process of conformation to Jesus' image meaning we're learning to walk in this life as He walked when He was here.
    - b. Jesus was perfectly surrendered to the Father's will & perfectly obedient to God's law. We desire to be more like Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  3. – We love like Jesus.
    - a. The 3<sup>rd</sup> evidence of knowing God, of salvation, is loving others like Jesus loves us.
    - b. Jesus loves us unconditionally. Loving others unconditionally proves we know Him.
    - c. This trait is most evident when we learn to love those who're unloving toward us.

#### II. Who we are in Christ (1 John 2:12-14)

##### A. Clarity

- *John mentions 3 specific groups of people using terms fathers, young men, & children.*
  1. – Verse 12
    - a. John began verse 12 the same way he began verse 1 of this chapter.
    - b. He used the familiar term of endearment, “**little children.**”
    - c. The word for “children” is *teknion*. John's meaning here is children of God.
    - d. He is addressing those who are saved by faith in Jesus.
  2. – Verses 13 & 14
    - a. In verses 13 & 14 John addresses fathers, young men, & little children
    - b. John's use of a different word for “children” is a clue to understanding these verses.
    - c. The word for children here is *Paidion* which means an infant, a small child, a baby.
    - d. Again, in verse 12 it's stated his entire audience is Christians, they are all believers.
    - e. Therefore, in this reference regarding age, fathers, young men, & babies correspond to the Christian life.
    - (1) Fathers
      - i. Fathers are associated w/ those mature in their faith. There're Christians of every age who're mature in faith. Fathers speak to spiritual maturity in a believer's life
    - (2) Young men
      - i. Young men are associated with their youthful strength & vigor. This strength is associated w/ overcoming wicked one in this life, living victorious Christian life.
      - ii. Again, there're Christians of every physical age living victorious Christian life.
      - iii. All Christians are indwelt by H.S., thus have power to overcome wicked one.

**(3) Babes in the faith**

- i. The term “children,” (*paidion*) means the little ones, the newborns.
- ii. These new Christians grow on the milk of the word & become mature.
- iii. There are newborn believers in the body of Christ of every age.

**3. Application** Spiritual traits John identified in these 3 groups apply for all Christians.

**B. Foundation of who we are in Christ:**

*Foundation of who we're in Christ is in verse 12. (1 Jn 2:12) 2 important things in this verse:*

**1. – We are forgiven.**

- a. To know God is first and foremost to have one's sins forgiven.
- b. Before there's spiritual growth as a child, spiritual victory as a young man, or spiritual maturity as a father, there must be forgiveness of sin.
- c. Free pardon of sin by grace through faith in Jesus is the foundation of Christian faith
- d. Without the forgiveness of sin nothing else in the Christian faith matters:
  - i. Obeying God's law would be just a religious exercise of no value.
  - ii. Emulating Jesus would also be just another religious exercise of no value.
  - iii. Loving others would be just a religious good deed with no value.
  - iv. Life would be just a brief moment spent on this planet without forgiveness of sin.
  - v. The most important part of knowing God is the forgiveness of our sin.
- e. Application: Forgiveness of sin by faith in Jesus sets Christianity apart from all the world religions. All others require a form of human effort to be acceptable to God.
  - i. Judaism believes keeping the law and being Jewish will do it.
  - ii. Islam believes if good deeds outweigh bad then you are in.
  - iii. Hinduism believes a person is saved in one of three ways, (1) the way of works, (2) the way of knowledge, or (3) the way of devotion.
  - iv. Buddhism believes in salvation through knowledge, enlightenment.
  - f. The Truth: No amount of human effort can reconcile us to God.
  - g. Man has no hope of forgiveness & eternal life in heaven apart from faith in Jesus.

**2. – For His name's sake**

- a. We're forgiven for His name's sake. For Jew name represented person's character.
- b. Jesus' character, with regard to our sin, is one of Savior & as Savior is wonderful.
  - (1) – Jesus is God.
    - i. As God He's the only one who could provide the payment required for our sin.
    - ii. Only the perfection of God could pay for our sin.
  - (2) – Jesus is love.
    - i. Love beyond human capacity moved Jesus to sacrifice Himself. **(Phil. 2:5-8)**
  - (3) – Jesus is merciful and longsuffering.
    - i. Jesus doesn't punish us immediately, as deserved, but is patient, even if provoked
    - ii. When people pursue wickedness & open rebellion against His law, He waits giving time for repentance and salvation. Jesus is a merciful Lord and Savior.
  - (4) – Jesus is compassionate. Jesus has empathy for us.
    - i. When we hurt Jesus cares and ministers to us. **(Hebrews 4:15)**
    - ii. Bottom Line: We are saved, forgiven of our sin because of Jesus.

**C. Our identity in Christ:**

- 1. In Jesus we're redeemed, forgiven of our sin, new creatures, adopted children of our God. In Jesus, He considers us His friends. We're more than conquerors over the evil one
- 2. In Jesus we're citizens of heaven now. In Jesus we have eternal life.