



The Spiritual Family

"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake" (I John 2:12).

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"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. 13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. 14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. 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" (I John 2:12-14).

Our text reveals that the spiritual family is made up of three elements, each with unique characteristics:

Little children because:

- your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake (vs 12)
- ye have known the Father (vs 13)

Young men because:

- ye have overcome the wicked one (vs 13)
- ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one (vs 14)

Fathers because:

- ye have known Him that is from the beginning (vs 13,14).

These categories are not based on their age of birth or gender but on their extent of the knowledge of God and the application of the Word of God in their lives. As we explore these, let's examine ourselves to which category we currently belong to. Also prayerfully consider which category God would like you to spend the rest of your life in. Once you discover it, determine what steps you need to take to move from where you are into that category and remain there.

Little Children

These have repented of their sins and accepted

"I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning" (I John 2:13)

Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, thereby establishing a "Father - Child" relationship. It is possible for one to remain in the "child" stage for all his / her spiritual life, but that is not the perfect will of God. "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 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" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

In recognition of this, Paul admonished the believers "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God" (Hebrews 6:1).

Young Men:

Young men have become strong through increased knowledge of the word of God and developed relationship with God. They have also learnt to exercise their faith to the point of overcoming the wicked one. These provisions are available to all believers, but it is only those that use them that develop strength to overcome the devil. It is like exercise, the more we exercise the more our muscles grow and develop strength to carry heavy weights and fight diseases.

Fathers:

Fathers have retained and grown in the knowledge and relationships acquired since becoming children and youths. They have used these to produce, develop and train spiritual children.