



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: 1 John 2:7, 10-14

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. ... 10 Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young people, because you have conquered the evil one. 14 I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. (NRSV)

Sermon Summary:

Some of the readers of John's letter might have been questioning their relationship with God after reading 1 John 2:3-11. This next section gives them the assurance and affirmation that they indeed are forgiven, they know the Father, they know Jesus Christ, they have conquered the evil one and they have kept God's word. Throughout this book, John frequently refers to the believers as children (13 times). In this section he also uses the metaphors of fathers and young people. This describes the different ages that are in the church which gives the church the family model. There are other models of the church, however John stresses this family model over a hierarchical model. We should appreciate all the different ages that are in the church.

Discussion:

What are the assurances that John is giving his readers?

Why might they need these assurances?

Why do you think John refers to the believers as "my little children" (2:1, 28), "little children" (2:12),

“children” (2:14, 18; 3:7), “God’s children” (3:1, 2)? (He uses the term children 13 times in 1 John.) Why does John use the terms “Fathers” and “young people?” What does this signify about the church community?

Paul, in his pastoral letters (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus), emphasizes the positions of elders and deacons and the different roles of men and of women. What might be the reasons that he places emphasis on these positions?

John doesn’t mention the positions of elder or deacon. Neither does he mention women or slaves. What might this signify concerning John’s view of the church?

Why do you think John, who wrote 20 years after Paul, would emphasize the family model of the church instead of Paul’s hierarchical model?

What are the ways that you could connect with other church members who are not your age? What will you do to make that happen?

End with Prayer