**Day 8 - Love at All Stages of Life**

1 John 2:12-14

At first glance, verses 12-14 seem to be out of place, but they really are not.

1. John has told us to love one another. (And he will have much more to say about it!) And what command does he give us in 1 John 2:15? Write it out. Are these commands only for certain believers? Are these commands for every believer, no matter what spiritual maturity level you have reached?

Note: John addresses believers at different spiritual maturity levels. “Little children” in these verses 12 and 13 has different meaning. Verse 12 refers to all believers. John addresses his spiritual children in this manner through out the letter. Verse 13 literally means “born ones”… new or young believers.

2. John is then writing to those at different spiritual maturity levels. We grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. All believers are in a process called sanctification. We are being made more and more like Christ. Notice, in verse 2:5, John says “whoever keeps His word (lives it out), truly the love of God is perfected in him”. It is matured in him. Is it the expectation that a believer will move on in maturity?

3. List what you learn about the little children, then young men, then fathers (in that order).

4. What is your maturity level?

Remember, if you are at the level of spiritual father/mother, if means, like little children, mothers know their sins are forgiven and understand the nature of their Father. Like young men/women, she overcomes the wicked one by being submitted to the Word. And as a result, they have a simple, singular passion: To know Him that is from the beginning (v13).

As a spiritual mom, you just want to go deeper in knowing Him and doing His will. Your focus is continually Him! “Lord, You’re my life, not these other things.” Our priority is simply Him. “Lord, I love being with You; I love talking with You; I just love You.”

That’s when you know you’re reaching the state of spiritual motherhood. And the interesting thing about fathers and mothers is that there’s reproduction.

**Application:**

If you are at the level of a spiritual mom, have you invested in any spiritual children? Have you had the opportunity or taken the opportunity to pour into the lives of others? (See Titus 2:3-5)

If you are a young believer, have you taken the opportunity to glean the wisdom of a spiritual mom (we often call them an older sister in the Lord). Would it be helpful?

**Write out a prayer to God**, all that’s on your heart. Ask Him to bring someone into your life who can teach and mentor you? If you have had a spiritual mom or older sister in Christ, thank God for her. Ask Him to use you. And so on…

This is one of the very important and practical ways that we love one another in the body of Christ. It can only come through women who are in fellowship with God and with each other.

**Do you consider fellowship important**? Do you have Christian fellowship? Respond in writing.