

June 19, 2022

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 John 2:7-14

“Social Test #1 – Love for God and His People – Part 3”

- I. Prologue – 1:1-4
- II. **Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27**
 - A. The Moral Test – 1:5-2:6
 - B. The Social Test – 2:7-17**
 - 1. The Commandment [Exhortation] (7-8)
 - 2. The Contrast [Explanation] (9-11)
 - 3. The Constant [Illustration] (12-14)**

Interpretive challenges: 1) Connection to the surrounding verses? 2) Number of groups? 3) What do they represent? 4) Why repeat them? 5) Why change from present (I am writing) to aorist tense (I have written or I wrote)? 6) Why change the word from little children (tekníon) to children (paidíon)? 7) To whom does “Him who has been from the beginning” refer?

a. Little Children / Children (12, 13)

b. Fathers (13, 14)

c. Young Men (13, 14)

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. Look at the “**interpretive challenges**” on your outline. Why is it important to consider these things when studying a passage? What do you do when pastors (or commentaries) you respect disagree with one another on the right interpretation of specific passages of Scripture? (See Acts 17:10-11; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:14-18)
2. Many commentators say that 1 John 2:12-14 has no connection to the verses before or after it. They see it as a parenthesis in John’s thinking. Pastor Paul believes there is a clear connection. How specifically do verses 12-14 connect to verses 9-11 and to verses 15-17? Verses 9-11 focused on a true believer’s love for other believers. What is the focus of their love in verses 12-17? (See also 1 John 4:20-21)
3. What are the characteristics of spiritual **children**? What are the two primary things that John points out about children in verses 12 and 13? What are some things that would keep spiritual children from maturing? What does the Bible say about believers who are not growing spiritually? (See 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 14:20; Eph. 4:14-16; Heb. 5:11-14)
4. What does it mean in verse 12 that the children’s sins have been forgiven “**for His name’s sake**”? What impact does a deep understanding of that truth have on a person’s love for God? (See Eph. 2:1-10)
5. What are the characteristics of spiritual **young men**? What are the things that helped them mature? What does John add in verse 14 to help us understand how they overcome the evil one?
6. What does it mean for the word of God to “**abide**” in someone? (See also Col. 3:16) How is that different from simply knowing or memorizing verses? If the word of God does not abide in someone, what does that reveal about their spiritual condition? (See John 5:38; 8:37; 1 John 1:10)
7. What are the characteristics of spiritual **fathers**? When compared to the children, what is distinct about who they know and how well they know Him? How does someone grow in their experiential knowledge of Him?
8. **Are you growing spiritually?** Where are you right now on the spiritual growth scale? Children? Young men? Fathers? What steps can you take this week to grow in your love for God? What specific steps can you take to help others grow in their love for God?
9. If you are a physical **father** (or spiritual father), what are you doing to lead your children (and grandchildren) into a saving and growing relationship with God and His church? What specific steps can you take this week to grow deeper in your love for God and help your family do the same?
10. **Memorize 1 John 2:12-14.** Ask the Lord to give you greater discipline to study and apply His Word so you can grow in your love relationship with Him and overcome the evil one.