

So That You May Know

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 8- Fathers, Children, and Young Men

62. Part 3

WAOY Thursday 08/02/07; WOSM Tuesday 12/27/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to *continue* to explore what John taught about fathers, children, and young men. So, let's turn in our Bibles to **1John 2:12-14** and read those verses again together:

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Now yesterday, I was going over how young men were highly valued during the time when John wrote this Epistle. The culture of the Jew toward a young man was far different than ours is.

Some today would even go so far to say that the way in which a young man was emphasized here was unfair toward women and was therefore wrong.

But that opinion is based upon looking at men and women and the different roles that they play through the eyes of modern society and not through the eyes of God. Scripture was not written with the idea of matching up with the faulty sense of human fairness. As I have said many times- you really don't want God to be fair with you. In spite of how holy and how good you may think that you are beloved- the fact is that we all are wicked sinners, and you don't want God to give you what

you deserve- because if He only gave you what you and I have earned- we would all be sent immediately to hell.

No, what God says may not be viewed by us today as being “fair”- but what God says is right and what God says is true and what God says is perfect and what God says is wise.

And only by us graciously submitting to what God says can we truly worship God. We have to understand that we are not worshipping God brothers and sisters unless we obey God. We can raise our hands during the song service, and we should do that- but if in fact we are living and operating in hostile rebellion to God at that moment; or if we are harboring unforgiveness in our hearts toward someone else or we are actively engaged in behavior that Scripture denounces- then God does not receive our raised hands as anything but a symbol of our rebellion toward Him.

So, we must reconcile in our own hearts that God is not at all concerned about measuring up to our standards of how things should be- we need to be real concerned however about measuring up with His standards.

The fact of the matter is that men and women are different. Now that may sound obvious- and it is- but it is profound, nonetheless. And as different creations of God- we play different roles. So, all that God does, and all that God says, and all that God teaches are to help us live and act out and conduct ourselves in those different roles rather than try to deny what is obvious and say that they are no differences.

All that the devil says and all that the devil teaches and all that the devil is about is to destroy the differences between men and women and to make one feel left out and unappreciated when in fact both are unique and special and precious and beautiful and a glory to God.

By humbly and graciously submitting to the different roles for men and women which Scripture teaches is to worship God and bring honor to His Name. By rebelling against the God given differences between men and women is to say- in effect- that our way is better than God’s Way and is an insult to God and a rejection by Man of God’s Plan and cannot in any way be considered to be worship.

By consistently feeding on what God says- both men and women will naturally migrate toward their God given roles and these differences will be clearly understood and marveled at and rejoiced over and a healthy and productive home will result, and God will be honored.

By feeding on what the lost pagan world teaches- men and women will become confused and their roles will be reversed, and havoc and chaos and an unstable home will be produced, and God will be dishonored.

Women are not the equal of men in many areas of life and conversely men are not the equal of women in many areas. This does not make the man to be better than the woman- it simply displays God's grand design for them to be different and yet one.

For example- men are primarily designed to mentally process information differently than women do so that they can leave the home and go out into the harsh and dangerous world to face the specific types of pressures that they are equipped by God to confront so that they can provide for and protect their wives and children.

Women are primarily designed by God to carry, deliver raise and nurture their children so that children will grow up normal and healthy and godly and to come up under and support and help the man. The man does what he does to give the woman the freedom and opportunity to do that and so she will respect and obey her husband. The woman does what she does so that the man will love her and honor her and respect her.

When both the man and the woman understand what God expects out of them and they surrender to God's way- the marriage is blessed; the home is strong and safe, and the children are normal and healthy and godly and all of society is blessed by productive citizens who live self less lives for the glory of God.

But when the man won't do what God expects out of him; and when the woman won't do what she is designed to do- the home is not normal, and the children suffer and as a result- all of society is affected by warped and selfish people who only exist to please themselves.

God Himself placed great value on strong, vibrant, and godly young men- John didn't do that- God did that- not John- and this does not detract at all from young women or mothers but should be a joy and a source of great comfort to both men and women.

Now as John was writing these three verses- he was not excluding the women from his statement. John is simply explaining to the Church why he was writing such deep theological and strict requirements such as proving our Salvation by obeying God and by loving the brethren.

So, John begins this explanation by telling the children of the Church why he was writing such things. If you remember, John began chapter 2 with these words-

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not...

So, John had reached a wonderful place of mercy and kindness and gentleness with those whom he shepherded and referred to them as **“little children.”** So here in verse 12- John is speaking with the same pastoral and kind terminology- not simply speaking only to young people age wise- but to all the precious sheep of God’s pasture.

But by calling thee people children- he is also telling them that having our sins forgiven is the elementary Truth of the Gospel that everyone should know- even a child.

What John is doing here is to remind all of the groups of the Church why he is writing to them. The Christian Church is under siege; the heretics are gaining ground. False teaching abounds. Wrong theology is prevalent- so John is writing to stand against vigilantism and of doing what is right in our own eyes and of conforming to the single standard put into Scripture of what Salvation is and how it came about and what we are to do now that we are saved and to clarify what it means to be saved and what God expects out of every single soul who names the Name of Jesus.

So, he tells the children that he is writing to them precisely because **“their sins have been forgiven.”** But John doesn’t stop there. He didn’t just write that the children’s sins have been forgiven as though it is the children themselves who are the object of God’s Salvation. No, look closely at the end of verse 12. John wrote here that the sins of the children have been forgiven them precisely for **“His Own Name’s sake”**.

Now what does that mean? What does it mean when God does something, **“for His Name’s sake”**? That phrase- **“for his name’s sake”** is the same thing as when God says that He does something, **“for my glory”**, or when God does something because it pleased Him to do it.

This illustrates a very important point about the Character and Nature of God and why God does what He does in the earth.

Now this may shock some of you so I will try to be gentle. Most of us- me included- were taught that God does what He does in the earth because He loves us so. But that is only partially true. God does love

us, and He loves us with a love that is beyond our comprehension to fully understand. But by stopping there- we make *ourselves* the object of all that God does in the earth and that is simply not true.

Okay- here we go- so hold on to your hats. There is no one more lovely; no one more important; no one more beautiful and no one more worthy to God than God is. To God- God is the most valuable thing that He knows of. God is infinitely impressed with Himself- and rightly so.

Now if a man said that- we would rightly say that that man is egotistical and full of self righteousness and full of his own importance and we would be right. But when we are talking about God- it is only proper and correct and fitting for God to think more highly of Himself than He does about anything or anyone else.

There is nothing that God loves more than He loves Himself. Because by definition nothing is more lovely and more worthy of love than God is. So, because God is God and because God is the single most lovely part of the universe- God would be wrong to love anyone or anything more or even as much as He loves Himself.

Everything that God made by definition; ever single part of Creation is less lovely than God is. All of Creation is less lovely; less valuable; less wise; less pure; less beautiful; less important; and therefore, not worthy of adoration and worship.

But God is worthy of adoration and worship precisely because He is the most lovely; the most worthy; the most important; the wisest; and the best over anything and everything that He has made.

In addition to that- God understands Himself with a full and complete knowledge. There is no part about God- no aspect of God's own Character and Nature that God doesn't know about in fullness.

Nothing surprises God; God never gets nervous; He is never at a loss; He is not frightened; He never wonders what to do; He is never in a dilemma. Precisely because there isn't any part of God's Creation that God doesn't know about and know about it in fullness. God never learns anything new, and nothing ever surprises Him because He already knows everything completely.

Conversely- we know nothing about God except what God has chosen to reveal to us about Himself through His Word. Our comprehension about God is limited by what God chose to reveal about Himself to us. And even though God did choose to reveal a lot- He didn't reveal everything.

So, on those issues where God has revealed His Nature and His Character and His Will- we may study those things so that we may comprehend them. But on those issue where God has chosen to be silent to us about- we are left to marvel at them and wonder at them and trust that God knows best.

So since the love that God has for Himself, is the greatest love that could ever be and since the knowledge that God has of Himself is the greatest knowledge that could ever be- what makes Salvation so great and so glorious is that to saved people and to saved people alone- God has chosen to share the love that He has for Himself and God has chosen to share the knowledge that God has of Himself with those who area saved.

So, Salvation- having our sins forgiven- is much greater than simply missing hell. It is something far more important than us walking on streets of gold and entering through pearly gates. All of that is true and that is wonderful- but Salvation is even more important than any of that.

Salvation is the single greatest thing that can ever happen to anyone on earth precisely because only in Salvation are we are given the very same knowledge that God has of Himself, and we are given the very same love that God has for Himself so that we can glorify Him to the degree that He is entitled to be glorified.

Let me repeat- we are saved for the purpose of knowing God with the knowledge that God has of Himself- which is the highest knowledge and so that we can love God with the same love that God has for Himself- which is the highest love- so that we may glorify God to the extent that He deserves to be glorified- or what John says here- for His Own Name's sake!

Well, I have to stop right here- but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.