



Lesson 5: Marks of Discipleship Pt.2 / Text: 1 John 2:12-17

Message focus: Last week we discovered that disciples of Jesus have a desire to obey God's commands. A second desire involves a genuine commitment to God's people (See 1 John 2:9-11). In this lesson we will focus on the third mark, which is a desire to grow spiritually. This desire is evident by how we view and interact with the world.

1. John places believers into one of three categories in 1 John 2:12-14. We will address what he says specifically next. For now, let's focus on the three groups. In what ways are Christians in these various stages of spiritual growth/life similar to people in these stages of growth/life physically and mentally?

- Little children

A.

- Young Men

A.

- Mature Fathers

A.

2. Let's look a bit closer at the three believer types. We are provided with information about the focus of the first two (*little children and young men*) that is most helpful in the maturing process.

Little Children – 1 John 2:12 mentions a most important, foundational truth that new believers are often consumed with dwelling on (“...*Your sins are forgiven...*”).

The importance of this truth is coupled with the reason why God forgives us (*look at the end of the verse*). What reason or motive is given? Why is this so important for us to understand?

A.

3. The second believer type, young men, are said to be overcomers. The way in which they (we) overcome is found in 1 John 2:14. The two things mentioned are that they are strong and have God's word abiding in them. Where does our strength come from according to the following verses? Ephesians 3:16-20 (*key verses are 16 and 20*)

A.

What is the difference between "will power" and "Holy Spirit power"?

A.

4. The second thing mentioned that allows young men (*maturing believers*) to be overcomers is having the Word of God in them. This addresses the importance of knowing and memorizing God's word. (*Remember: When Jesus was tempted by the devil, He responded by quoting scriptures. He didn't simply have the Word of God in His hand; He also had it in His heart.*)

According to Psalm 119:11, what will help keep us from sinning? Why is the Psalmist's motive the best one for us too? What is often our motive instead?

A.

5. Ephesians 6:17 mentions a means of quenching (*dousing*) the fiery darts (*arrows/temptations*) the enemy launches at us. The phrase "sword of the Spirit" refers to the Word of God. The word translated "word" is the Greek word "Reema". It can refer to the whole of scripture, but is primarily talking about particular portions of scripture. When Jesus was tempted, He didn't just quote some random scriptures, He quoted ones that dealt specifically with the temptation at hand. Why is doing so helpful? Have you tried it?

A.

6. Believers today are tempted in the same 3 ways Jesus was in Matthew 4:1-11. What are they and how are you (*we*) tempted in each area today? (*1 John 2:15-17*)

A.

7. Jesus said that Christians are "not of this world". Christians are said to be "in" the world, but are not to be "of" this world. What is the difference? What would it look like if you sought to live this way in your life? (*John 17:14-17, 24*)

A.