

A Practical Study of 1 JOHN
“Fellowship With The Father”
Study Number Four

1 John 2:12-17

Fellowship is Escalated by Growth

Here is a small excerpt from Bob Stromberg who wrote *Why Geese Fly Farther than Eagles*. Bob is one of the Focus on the Family’s writers.

I thought I’d found a solution during my first term in college. [*Bob has a real self-image problem. He is trying to lose weight. He is trying to get himself in shape. And he says*] I enrolled in a weight training class three days a week, two full hours a day. The course cost \$350, but it was worth it to me. After all, I was not just getting a college credit, I was getting a new body, and with it a whole new way of life.

But it didn’t work, at least not the way I thought it would. Ten weeks later, on the last day of class, I walked disgustedly into Coach Phil Ed’s office (we called him Fizz). I weighed four pounds less than when I began and still possessed little motivation to oil my skin.

“Coach Ed,” I said, trying hard not to look at the floor, “I want my \$350 back.”

“I’d love to do that, Bob,” said the coach, “but that would be an infraction of the rules.”

“Yeah, well, it didn’t work,” I said more boldly. “You told me if I faced the pain, I’d find the power. And I believed you, but it didn’t work!”

“Whoa, Bob. Time out!” he said, making a [great big] T with his hands. Placing his reading glasses on his nose and spreading my workout chart before us on his desk, he said sternly, “I’m afraid you’re out of bounds here, Bob. You’ve stepped over the baseline, fella. You’re offsides. Net ball!

“We can clearly see your progress,” he said, pointing at the chart. “For example, right here where it says Day One, your maximum number of curls was three at two pounds. But today you did twenty-five at fifteen. In squats you were at . . .”

Down the chart he went—curls, squats, bench press—and in every category I had made considerable progress.

“Is this what you meant?” I moaned. “Did you mean that if I went through these last ten grueling weeks, I would just get stronger?”

“You got that one right on the putting green, young man,” he said. “What did you think I meant?”

“I thought I might look different,” I protested. “I thought it might even change my body a bit.”

“Whoa, Bob, you dropped the ball on that one. You ran the wrong pattern, tackled the wrong guy. Technical foul!” he shouted, making another big T. “You took the wrong course, Bob. You want a new body, that’ll cost you another \$350.”

But my classes were already scheduled for the new term. I couldn’t afford to pay the penalty fee to have them changed, and besides, I’d have to take the course from Coach Ed, who I always felt was playing the game of life about three yards short of a first down.

My feelings about my body were not something I talked openly about to people. It seemed better to keep my thoughts to myself.

We all recognize the fact that we want to change from what we are into what we need to become. And yet change is one of the most painful things in the world.

And another thing you need to recognize is you do not change in isolation. You talk to Alcoholics Anonymous, you talk to Weight Watchers, you talk to anyone, change comes painful and painfully slow and it only comes with accountability.

And our study for today is

“FELLOWSHIP IS ESCALATED BY GROWTH”

John recognizes growth in this particular study. He recognizes change. And so what we are talking about is something that feels the pages of Scripture. Let me hit you with a few verses.

2 Peter 3:18

grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:2, 3

like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word.

1 Corinthians 3:2, 3

I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Hebrews 5:11

Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

Okay, how does growth take place? Here I am, I am born again of the Spirit into God's family and that is a true picture. I am a little baby in His family. Okay, what do I do to grow? There are three things that you must do to grow and if you are not growing you are still hung up in the flesh and you still stay in the state where you are. The moment you are out of fellowship you paralyze growth so you still stay in the same state. Three things:

1. you are **FEEDING UPON HIS WORD**, there is your nourishment.
2. you are **SUBMITTING TO HIS SPIRIT**,
3. you are expressing **OBEDIENCE TO HIS WILL**.

FEEDING

SUBMITTING

OBEDIENCE

Those three things will escalate the growth process in the believer. The thing that thrills me the most is to see a young believer who follows these three patterns and escalates his growth the point that he goes way beyond some people who have been Christians for 20, 30 and 40 years. It is the most refreshing thing in the world to be around people who just do not know all the jargon and who have not been saturated by things that have paralyzed them and they are staying in the same state but they are growing and they are challenged by the Word of God and they are feeding upon it and submitting to His Spirit in obedience to His will.

Okay, the question that we raise at this time is what are some of the areas of my life that He works on when He starts producing growth?

I came up with three W's. The struggle in growth is going to hit you in three areas and you must deal with

these if you are going to maintain fellowship.

1. **THE WILL.** It is my will against His will.
2. It is **THE WORLD** around us and that is what we are talking about tonight.
3. It is **THE WISHES** of my heart.

Now let's think about those for a minute.

1. **My WILL.** I love competition because it reveals the will. It comes out every time. And the will is there and it manifests itself in stubbornness. It manifests itself in the spirit of perfection. But there has to come a time for the breaking of the will before God is ready to use us.
2. Then secondly, the **WORLD** around us, the world system, how important it is in our lives.
3. I only hasten on the number three because the world is going to be in this study. **My WISHES.** What are the things in my emotional being that are a concern that the Lord must work on? What are those wishes? Oh, my anxieties, my worries, my bitterness, my resentfulness, my lack of a forgiving spirit, my doubts, my failures to believe, to take hold of the promises of God, my indecision, my boredom, my jealousy, the selfishness, these things down inside that are churning that are not right. The Lord works on those and brings therapy in that area so we can be freed up to grow and

to be servants for Jesus' sake.

Now as we come to 1 John 2:12-17 and we just have these six verses together, we are going to be noting John discerns certain levels of spiritual growth in the verses so that you can understand the basis for this whole passage.

And then he gives us the first negative warning in the epistle in verse 15. So let's take the verses and work our way through.

v. 12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven through His name.

He starts with LITTLE CHILDREN. In talking about little children that fits perfectly with John chapter 3 when Jesus tells Nicodemus who is an old man "you must be born again."

What a joy to see somebody come to know Jesus Christ and to have a part in the birth process in sharing the Lord Jesus with them and watching them come to know the Savior and then respond to that in an intelligent way. There is no greater joy.

You know sometimes when I think about this I often want to yield to embarrassing my audience to ask if there is anyone who has ever had the joy of leading somebody else to Christ in the audience. But what if I did that today, could you be a person who raised your hands or have you been a believer for 25 years and you

have never had the privilege of leading somebody else to Christ? You know it would be a very, very serious matter.

The greatest joy you are going to have in heaven is that people are there because of you. That people are going to come up and say “thank you for giving to the Lord and giving of yourself that they might know Christ.”

John evidently knows quite a few of these folks and he is writing to them as little children. What is the most important thing to a person who has just been born into God’s family? Look at that. **“YOUR SINS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN THROUGH HIS NAME.”** Man the young believer is running around and he is saying “hey the slate is clean man. I have had a bath. The whole thing is over.”

Isaiah 38:17

Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

Micah 7:19

You have hurled all of our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

What a thrill to start out, born again and a brand new start as little children.

Now he turns from the little children and he writes to another group. Here comes your second of the three groups.

v. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one.

What is he saying about the FATHERS? You almost get a feeling when you read that statement “BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW THE ONE WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING” that the fathers have known Him for quite a long time. They have walked with the Lord, they have matured in the faith. But what is true, what has to be true, before you can truly have the name “father”? You see you have to be involved in the parenting process, you have to have a child to be a father or a mother and that is the picture that is described Biblically.

Paul in Philemon verse 10, what a great story. Philemon is a businessman in Ephesus and he comes to know Christ at a Bible study in Ephesus and he goes home and he leads his wife Apphia to the Lord and his son Archippus to the Lord but Onesimus is a slave that cannot stand falling out of bed into Sunday school every time he turns around because they are having church at his house. So he steals some things from

Philemon and goes to Rome and guess who he ends up in prison next to but the apostle Paul. Paul leads him to Christ and sends a letter back to Philemon telling him not to kill this wayward slave because now he is more than a slave, he is a child.

Philemon 10

whom I have begotten in my imprisonment.

Paul looked on the fruit of his labor as children who experienced a new birth and he parented. And that is a father.

“I AM WRITING TO YOU, FATHERS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW THE ONE WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING.”

And that little word “KNOW” is very pregnant too, that is the word “to know by experience.” It is to walk with him for a long time. It is to know the joy of seeing him and manifesting himself so beautifully in such wonderful, wonderful ways.

Okay you have the little children and you have the fathers but then on top of all of that you have the YOUNG MEN and he is going to speak to them here and speak of them from the standpoint that “YOU HAVE CONQUERED THE EVIL ONE.” You can see the young men in the robustness of life facing all of the temptations of the flesh and of the world and having conquered it and the apostle is saying, “I joy and

rejoice because I see that in you as young men.”

“YOU HAVE CONQUERED THE EVIL ONE.”

Alright you have had three phrases that have the word BECAUSE.

- 1. First of all “I AM WRITING TO YOU, LITTLE CHILDREN, BECAUSE YOUR SINS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN THROUGH HIS NAME.”**
- 2. “I AM WRITING TO YOU, FATHER, BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW THE ONE WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING.”**
- 3. “I AM WRITING TO YOU, YOUNG MEN, BECAUSE YOU HAVE CONQUERED THE EVIL ONE.”**

How do they do this? YOUNG MEN who are filled with the vibrance and the dynamic of life have done it:

- 1. by DESIRE**
- 2. by DETERMINATION**
- 3. and by DISCIPLINE.**

They are young men who have stood against the tide.

1 Timothy 6:11, 12

But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH is always accompanied with a STRUGGLE. I could add one more “S.” Spiritual growth is always accompanied with SUFFERING. They just go together.

And that struggle and that suffering comes from the pit of hell, the lion, Satan himself, who is seeking whom he may devour, he is at work.

May I give you some verses?

2 Corinthians 2:11

in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

These young men were strong and they conquered the evil one.

How did they do that? Not in their own strength but in the strength which the Lord provides. He is the One who leads in triumph.

You are going to see in chapter 4 “greater is He who is in us than He who is in the world.” We have all the resources for victory, the only problem is will we avail ourselves of the resources which are ours to lead us to victory.

You young men and women that are sitting before me tonight you are in a battle with hell itself like none of us who are older have ever known because you are in the midst of a crumbling society and the world is trying desperately to crush the life out of you.

My onus and my prayer for you and I beg you – gain the victory in Jesus Christ. Do not lose anymore territory to hell itself. Maintain a stand of victory. The Lord is on our side.

These young men have thrilled John, this aged apostle in that they have conquered the evil one.

Now he puts them altogether, don't you like the way he does it? I just love his writings.

v. 14 I write to you, young children, because you have known the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God is abiding in you, and you have conquered the evil one.

You know when you get old you have a tendency to repeat yourself just a little. The thing you love about John is he is repeating himself for a purpose though. He does not want you to miss it. It is very important.

1. You notice, first of all, **“I WRITE TO YOU, YOUNG CHILDREN, BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN THE FATHER.”** Yes. Come into relationship with the Father.
2. **“I WRITE TO YOU, FATHERS,”** and he uses exactly the same phrase he used in the previous verse, it is the very same thing, **“BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW THE ONE WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING.”** You have a track record and I do not need to say anything more about the fathers.
3. **“I WRITE TO YOU, YOUNG MEN,”** but now here are some secrets to the victory in conquering the evil one that were not in the previous verse **“I WRITE TO YOU, YOUNG MEN, BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG”** – strong in the strength of the One who dwells within you.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Yes!

**“AND THE WORD OF GOD IS ABIDING IN YOU,”
there is the secret to victory.**

You know exactly the same principle is born over in life. I have watched people who have grown up in the church and who have actually lost everything that is valuable in life, their marriage, their family, their vocation because they have given in to the pit of hell.

And then I have watched others who have that beautiful spirit of perseverance that for some reason hang in there and turn a defeat into victory. And it is an amazing thing. But you know I have been a Christian long enough to know the difference. Do you know what the difference is? And you better put this in your pipe and smoke it and think about it for a good while. The difference is those people who gain the victory have MEMORIZED the Word of God in their Sunday school and in their church or they have been in a personal memory program and they have enough of the Word of God working within them that even though they do not with their own wills want to do this, the Word of God will not let and they just seem to walk the precarious line for a period of time and then they go for broke and glorify God.

Psalm 119:9, 11 is the Bible my friends and you need to recognize it.

**Where with all shall a young man cleanse his way?
By taking heed thereto according to Thy word, Thy
Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin
against Thee.**

When we are victims of satanic temptations and the machinations of this world it is the Word of God working in your life that is going to be your greatest defense and is going to lead you to victory.

I WRITE TO YOU, YOUNG CHILDREN, BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN THE FATHER. I WRITE TO YOU, FATHERS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW THE ONE WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING.” And then “I WRITE TO YOU, YOUNG MEN, BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG AND THE WORD OF GOD IS ABIDING IN YOU, AND YOU HAVE CONQUERED THE EVIL ONE.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And for this reason we are always giving thanks to God because when you receive God’s message from us you accepted it not as the Word of men but for what it really is, the Word of God which also performs its work in you who are believing.

It does indeed work in you who believe.

Now there is another problem and that problem is you can have your head so stuffed with Biblical content it has not reached down in your heart to do the work. And you have to see a passage come out of the head and into the heart and sometimes traumatic circumstances in your life get that stuff out of your head and down into your life and you can thank God for the traumatic circumstances that did that so the Word really does began to do what it was designed to do and that is to work in your life.

Can you imagine how Jesus would have handled Satan in Matthew chapter 4 if he did not have the Word of God in His heart and in His life?

Three times Jesus just blasts Satan right out of the tub. Just with passages of Scripture that show Satan for what he is and what he is trying to accomplish.

John is impressed with the young men. The young men are young men who have the Word of God abiding in them and they have gained victory over Satan.

Jeremiah 15:16 is a great verse to memorize:

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was the joy and rejoicing of my heart: for I am called by your name, O Lord God of hosts.

Eat it, feed on it, find it to be your joy and delight.

Well they have conquered the evil one. We have seen it

twice.

Now here comes your **NEGATIVE COMMAND** and the **KEY VERSE** to the **STUDY**.

v. 15 Stop loving the world, neither the things which are in the world. If a man keeps on loving the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Wow! That is a strong verse.

There are going to be two times that we are going to get negatives. We are going to get a negative in chapter 4 and we get a negative here. And there are two warnings on the dashboard of life of things to avoid if you want to maintain fellowship with your Father.

1. **STOP LOVING THE WORLD** and
2. **STOP BELIEVING EVERY SPIRIT**

That is when we get over to chapter 4.

Both negative commands but they are just like flashing lights.

If you and I make choices to continue to love the world when we come to know Jesus Christ, that is going to affect fellowship. Evidently they were because it is a present, negative command. That means it is going on.

“STOP LOVING THE WORLD”

I have chosen this as my key verse for

“Fellowship is escalated by growth”

Now let me put it this way.

You have LIGHT over here and you have DARKNESS over here. We have already had that.

And you have LOVE over here and you have HATE over here.

You have the FATHER over here and you have the WORLD over here. Those two will never come together. You cannot have two lovers in your life. God designed you for one love, for one place of priority.

It is very interesting that the young men have conquered the evil one because now we are talking about the kingdom of the evil one in this negative warning.

2 Corinthians 4:3, 4 says

In whom if our gospel is hid, it is hid to those who are perishing: In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not.

He is the god of this world.

James is so strong he calls them adulteresses.

James 4:4

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?

Maybe your Christian experience is so lukewarm and so shallow and so much of just going through the motions and now we finally hit the nerve. It is because you love the world more than you love the Lord. You are more concerned about your bottom line, you are more concerned about the house you live in and the clothes you wear and the car you drive and the privileges you have while you are here on this earth, you have made that more important than your love for the Lord. And as a result you do not know the joy of fellowship that comes from Him.

Matthew 6:32, 33

For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Remember the rich young ruler? He went away sad and sorrowing because he had so much. The reason he went away sad and sorrowing is he could not give it up.

I think the saddest verse in the New Testament is

2 Timothy 4:10

Demas has forsaken me because of his love of this present world.

It is letting the world come in and that become thorns that choke out the vibrant dynamic seed that is there.

Can I give you a principle?

Fellowship is affected by my attitude toward the world.

That is the bottom line of this study. And when you are hung up in the world you are not growing and when you are hung up in the world, the world is hostile toward God.

Now the big question that I ask then is what are you living for? What is the most important thing in your life? What is your top priority? Is it:

a house,

a car,

a bank account,

a lake cabin

or something else?

Those are only instruments and tools and if God gives you, use them for the glory of God. There is nothing wrong in having it but use it for Him. But don't let that stuff consume you.

It seems like every time the Lord confronts individuals that are involved in all the things of the world there is a transformation in their attitude toward it.

Let me give you a couple of illustrations.

Matthew 9:9, 10

And as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man, called Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he rose, and followed Him. And it happened that as He was reclining at the table in the house, behold many tax-gatherers and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples.

Matthew gets up and goes home. He has a fabulous house and he calls all of his tax-collector friends in and he has a visiting Bible teacher by the name of Jesus Christ so he can give his message to the audience that he has touched.

How about Zaccheus; he could not see Jesus so he climbs a tree? And here he is, he sees Christ, and Christ stops and says "come down, I am going to eat at your house today." He says "stop. I am going to give back four times to anybody I have taken stuff from."

And everybody, even the city can't believe. Man salvation came to that guy's house.

You see the bottom line did not mean anything to Zaccheus anymore because he had found something far more important – a relationship to Christ.

There was a hunter, he had his gun aimed at a great big bear up in Alaska and he was already to pull the trigger and the bear spoke in a very soft, soothing voice saying, "Isn't it better to talk than to shoot? Why don't we negotiate the matter? What is it you want?" The hunter lowered his rifle and answered, "I would like a fur coat." "That's good," said the bear. "I think that's something we can talk about. All I want is a full stomach; maybe we can reach a compromise." So they sat down to talk it over. A little while later the bear walked away alone. The negotiations had been successful--the bear had a full stomach, and the hunter had a fur coat!

"FELLOWSHIP IS ESCALATED BY GROWTH."

One of the things that stands in the way is ones attitude toward the world.

"IF A MAN KEEPS ON LOVING THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM."

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and man.

God designed us with the capacity for only one love, it must be love for Him and growth is escalated in my life when I demonstrate that commitment to Him that He is number one.

Now to make those kind of choices:

it is going to involve PAIN

it is going to involve PERSEVERANCE

and it is going to involve a STRENGTH that comes only from Him.

And where there is no accountability you will probably fail. You have to have somebody looking over your shoulder that loves you and will be there to make you continue to do what you need to do.

Verse 16, why shouldn't I love the world and the things that are in the world? Reason:

v. 16 Because everything which is in the world, the passionate desire of the flesh, and the passionate desire of the eyes, and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I stop loving it and there is a list of three things:

1. Because the world represents the **DESIRES OF THE FLESH**.
2. The world represents the **DESIRE OF THE EYES**.
3. The world represents the **VAINGLORY OF LIFE**.

Now what is the “passionate desire of the **FLESH**?” You can just put down Galatians 5:16, 17 and you have the conflict between the spirit and the flesh; living for the deeds of the flesh.

And then what is the lust of the **EYES**? The lust of the eyes is contemplating that which actually causes us to be individuals who lust because of what we see.

But what is the **VAINGLORY** of life? I have read so many things on this. This is the only place in the New Testament the word occurs.

The word means

PRETENTION

it means ARROGANCE

it means PRIDE IN ONE'S POSSESSIONS

FALSE PRETENTION

It is the word that describes the pride that I have in that which I have personally been able to attain.

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the vainglory of life.

v. 17 And the world is passing away, and its passionate desire; but the one who is doing the will of God is abiding forever.

You know there is a sign on a highway once put out by the American Dental Society that says:

“Ignore your teeth and they will go away.”

Here we have a choice between the WORLD and His WILL. The world is temporary; His will is eternal.

“Behold I am standing at the door knocking” to the Laodicean Church, saturated by worldliness and wealth, “I stand at the door and knock. If any man is hearing My voice and opening the door, I will come into him and have fellowship with him and he with Me.”

And your growth is going to escalate as a result of that decision.

Victory through Surrender by E. Stanley Jones)

If you don't surrender to God don't think you don't surrender. Everybody surrenders—to something. Some surrender to themselves as God. If you surrender to yourself as God you won't like your God. You will do as you like and then you won't like what you do. You will express yourself and you won't like the self you express. You won't like your self and no one else will like you. “It's a million chances to one that the self-centered are unpopular,” said a psychiatrist.

If you don't surrender to your self as God, you will probably surrender to someone else as God. And if you do you will probably be disillusioned.

p. 121

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: One of the greatest things we realize when we are born again into God's family is that our sins have been forgiven through His name.

LESSON #2: The number one thing that should thrill us as we look back on our lives as believers is our ever-deepening knowledge of the Father.

LESSON #3: Spiritual growth involves conflict with the evil one.

LESSON #4: His strength and the word of God abiding in us are the keys to victory over the evil one.

LESSON #5: Love for the Father must be the number one priority in our lives.

LESSON #6: If we keep on loving the world, the love of the Father is not in us.

LESSON #7: It is the flesh within us that desires those things which are contrary to the Father's purpose and plan for our lives.

LESSON #8: The power of temptation is magnified through the eyes.

LESSON #9: The vainglory of life is pride in one's possessions, or the thought of shaping one's life apart from God.

LESSON #10: The world is passing away but the one doing the will of God is abiding forever.

STUDY NUMBER FOUR - 1 JOHN 2:12-17

FELLOWSHIP IS ESCALATED BY GROWTH

KEY VERSE 2:15

v. 12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven through His name.

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v. 17 And the world is passing away, and its passionate desire; but the one who is doing the will of God is abiding forever.

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 John 2:12-17 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does John mean by the term “little children” in verse 12?

3. What does he mean by the terms “fathers” and “young men” in verse 13?

4. What three things are true of the young men described in verse 14?

5. How would a Christian manifest a love for the world?

6. What is the character of this world, according to verse 16?

7. How does John describe the world and one “doing the will of God,” according to verse 17?

8. How would you characterize your own spiritual growth since becoming a Christian, using the terms “little children,” “young men,” and “fathers” described here in these verses?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?
