



The Guardian Shepherd

Defy the World and its Allure

1 JOHN 2:12-17 NIV

¹²I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one

¹⁴I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

ORIGINAL MEANING

JOHN: COHERENT OR INCOHERENT?

- Some observe John to be lacking logical coherence when they come to verse 12.
- There is coherence from v11 to v15, consider verses 12-14 as a parenthetical encouragement to John's readers.

THREE GROUPS ENCOURAGED

1. DEAR CHILDREN

- One interpretation is that John reaches out to three distinct groups in his church: the youngest (children), the oldest (fathers), and those in between (young men).
- Another interpretation is that dear children is an address to the entire congregation.
 - This interpretation considers dear children in the same context as 2:1, 2:18, 2:28, 3:7, 3:18, 4:4, 5:21

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2. FATHERS

- The New Testament writers typically use fathers as a metaphor for ancestors/leaders who have died.
- John seems to have something different in mind: those who are mature in the faith. John's usage is unique.

3. YOUNG MEN

- Those who are younger in the faith, yet strong in faith.

ENCOURAGEMENT EMPHASIZED

- There is an emphasis in John's encouragement. He repeats a word of encouragement to each group he is addressing.
- John uses the present tense *I am writing*, and the past tense *I write* (other English translations render it clearer as *I have written*).

	I am writing because	I have written because
Dear Children	Sins are forgiven	You know the Father
Fathers	You know Him who is from the beginning	You know Him who is from the beginning
Young Men	You have overcome the evil one	You are strong Word of God lives in you You have overcome the evil one

THE WORLD

WORLD: KOSMOS (ALL SCRIPTURE BELOW – NIV)

THE CREATED WORLD COMPREHENSIVELY:

- *...since the foundation of the world* (Matthew 13:35)
- *...since the beginning of the world...* (Matthew 24:21)
- *...before the world was.* (John 17:15)

ALL MANKIND, GENERALLY

- *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.* (Romans 3:19)
- *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.* (Romans 5:12)

- *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16).*

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A PORTION OF MANKIND:

- *So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" (John 12:19)*
- *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. (Romans 1:8)*

THE WICKED, SINFUL OF MANKIND OR GENERALLY EVIL, CORRUPTION, SIN:

- *If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. (John 15:19)*
- *I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. (John 17:9)*
- *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? (James 4:4)*

DOES JOHN PROMOTE A SEPARATIST CHURCH?

- John has previously told his readers; Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for the whole world (2:2).
- God's love in giving his Son has a purpose (atonement), hence the church cannot be completely separatist.
- John implies boundaries should exist between the church and the world.
- Loving the sinful desires of the world effectively keeps one from a relationship with God— *love for the Father is not in them.*

THE WORD FOR TODAY

THE PARENTHETICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

- Be encouraged by the assurance of knowing God.
- "Fathers" use your "knowing" God to influence "young men."
- "Young men" continue in growing and "knowing" God.

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DEFY THE WORLD AND ITS ALLURE

- God's love is so great He gave his son "for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:2 NIV)
- God does not love the sin of the world, and thus we must continually assess our boundaries between the kingdom of God and "the world."

9Yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. (2 Corinthians 7:9-10 NIV)