

Fast Facts #4 1 John 2:12-17

1. In these verses, John addresses 3 sets of readers: dear children, fathers, and young men. Each of these terms refers to all readers. They were all “dear children”, “fathers”, and “young men”. Whatever is said of each age category is true for all believers.
2. John makes it clear that his readers were Christ followers. They had experienced forgiveness, knowledge of God and victory in spiritual battle. He warns them again against false teaching and dangers from the world.
3. When he says that we are to love God and our brothers (and sisters) and not the world, he means the attitudes and values that disregard God and are blatantly against God. Just watch the TV news.
4. The reason we are not to love the “world” is because the world’s values are in opposition to God.
5. The lust of the eye refers to when Eve looked at the “forbidden fruit”, it was pleasing to the eye and to David’s sin when he looked on Bathsheba taking a bath.
6. I read that boasting of what we have and what we can do refers to arrogance and pride. These can overtake us as we try to get ahead of others.
7. Missionary, Jim Elliot, who was slain on the mission field, said it well, “He is not fool who gives up what he cannot keep - to get what he cannot lose”.
8. John is trying to equip and reassure the Christ followers of that day, so they might be able to overcome the Gnostics and Satan. We have plenty of our own “Gnostics”.