

A Child of the Father

1 John 2:12-14

- I. The Divine Priority of Love (7-8)
- II. The Believer's Commitment to Love (9-17)
 - A. A New Love for God's People (9-11)
 - B. A New Love for God (12-17)
 - 1. The true Christian knows and loves the Father and everything the Father loves (12-14).

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- a. Spiritual Childhood: the Start of the Christian Life (12; 13c)
 - The true Christian loves God because of the forgiveness of his sins and a new relationship with God as Father.
- b. Spiritual Adulthood: the Goal of the Christian Life (13a; 14a)
 - The true Christian pursues a mature knowledge of and love for the Father and the Son, through the Holy Spirit.

1. The true Christian knows and loves the Father and everything the Father loves (12-14).

c. Spiritual Youth: Real Progress in the Christian Life (13b; 14b)

- The true Christian grows in his love for God by a maturing knowledge of and obedience to God's Word.
 - Spiritual growth is inevitable.
 - Spiritual growth is like physical growth.
 - Spiritual growth is by means of God's Word.