

#13 Seeking Direction

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- God actively lives in us to help us be Christ-like.
- (The evil one works double time to confuse us.)
- But believers get quite confused in how to properly handle relationships.
- When we see a little baby, we do not place on them expectations associated with an adult.



A Physical Analogy

- John used physical life as an analogy to help us understand both the existence and essence of spiritual life.
- This helpful analogy clarifies the development of our spiritual lives.
- So helpful to think of physical to understand the spiritual.
- Three levels of spiritual life, the hidden becomes clear.

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one (1 John 2:12-14).

- Are you sure they aren't describing physical groups?

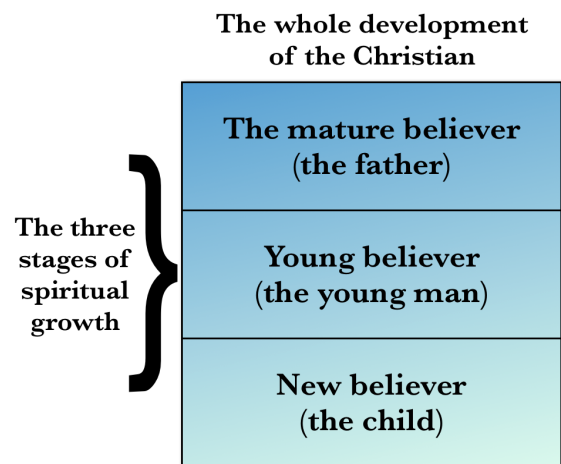
Only Three Stages

- The goal of the whole process is to be like Jesus - a mature believer.

- Each stage clarifies what happens at each stage of development.
- As older believers we can facilitate this developing progress (e.g. parents)
- Problems of the weak church is our not training our spiritual children!

Our Lessons

- The spiritual development of believers has many similarities to the physical development of human beings.
- Weakness in the church has nothing to do with the lack of power of the gospel or God's Word, but the failure of God's people to responsibly train up those around them.
- There are three stages of spiritual development: new believers (children), young believers (young men) and mature believers (fathers).



Our Applications

- ➡ Study 1 John 2:12-14. What three groups do you find? Highlight one difference for each stage, both physically and spiritually.
- ➡ Are you aware of anyone being disciplined? If not, why do you think this is the case?