

Craig Keener: “Although some ancient writers often considered young men more vulnerable to particular temptations (especially sexual immorality), John expresses his confidence in them.” (BBCNT, IVP)

- b) These categories, though male by nature, are metaphorical to spiritual growth so they are not exclusive of women in the church.
  
  - c) A convention that identified them as the people of God. (Acts 22:1)
- B. Children never cease to be children.
- i. All fathers are children even if all children are not fathers or young men.
  
  - ii. John is laying out a path of maturity.

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Why might a person who is expecting the fulfillment of Isaiah’s glorious vision be a bit disappointed in the experience one might have today when they consider God’s people, the church?
- How might John’s language of darkness passing away and true light dawning inform what he means by old and new? (Cmp. 1 Cor 13:8-13)
- If John is teaching his disciples how to *live into* the life of the coming age, or into the new creation, how does he call them to do it?
- How does Isaiah 62 give in picture form what John is instructing the churches to do in 1 John?
- Why might John want his hearers to be able to easily memorize 2:12-14? What is he trying to make sure they understand?
- Who are the children? Father? Young men? What can we take away from this language of children, fathers, young men?

## Light, Life, Love – the Gospel we heard from Him

### *Participants in New Creation*

Jerry Cisar — September 20, 2020

Text: 1 John 2:7-14

Keyword: Creation

### Introduction

- A. Great Disappointment
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Creation and Light
  - i. Isaiah 9:2
  - ii. Isaiah 42:6-7
  - iii. Isaiah 42:16
  - iv. Isaiah 60:1-2
  - v. Isaiah 65:17
  - vi. Isaiah 66:22

*What does it mean to be a part of God’s new creation which began in Jesus Christ? How do we live into it?*

### I. Provisional or Permanent (7-8)

- A. What is meant by the old vs. the new commandment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. It was part of the provisional law.
  - i. Provisional: providing or serving for the time being only; existing only until permanently or properly replaced; temporary.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - ii. The Mosaic Law was *provisional*.

- iii. The love command was part of the provisional law but is also part of the new, belonging to new creation, law that will remain forever (2:17).

#### C. A New Command Belonging to the New Age (8)

- i. 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
  
- ii. In Isaiah's cosmic vision, light vs. darkness, new covenant vs. old covenant, creation vs. new creation, passing away vs. remaining forever are all interrelated.
  - a) Biblical eschatology has nothing to do with figuring out when Jesus is coming back; it has everything to do with how we live the life of the new age now!
  
  - b) John understood that Christ's coming has had such a cosmic impact on the world that it can be said that the old, fallen world of "darkness is passing away and the true light—the new creation—is already shining." (8)

G.K. Beale: "The resurrection life of the eternal age to come has begun in Jesus's resurrection and in the spiritual resurrection of his followers, who identify with his death and resurrection."

#### II. Passing Darkness and Dawning Light (9-11)

- A. You cannot walk in the darkness and in the new creation at the same time.
  - i. To love, to obey the command of the new age, is to live in the light of the new creation (Rev. 22:5).
  
  - ii. To hate means one is abiding in the darkness and to walk around in the darkness.

- a) Isaiah 42:16 To hate is to reject that leading into the unfamiliar path of love.
  
- b) Isaiah 9:2 To follow Jesus is to walk in the light, not hate one's brother or sister.

#### B. Love: the essence of the life of the age to come.

- i. John wants us to know that we have eternal life.
  
- ii. He wants us assured because he knows we need to live into the new reality that has begun! (Isaiah 60:1-2)

#### III. People of the New Covenant and New Creation (12-14)

- A. "You are the People of God in this New Creation!"
  - i. Knowing this is necessary for them to live into who they are!
  
  - ii. This language of children, fathers, and young men identifies them as the people of God.
    - a) Children:
      - 1 John 5:1
  
      - 1 John 2:1, 18
  
    - b) John doesn't want any of them who cling to Jesus to wonder (2:12, 14a).

*This language of "knowing the Father" and having our "sins forgiven" is right out of Jeremiah 31:31-34 where the New Covenant is promised.*

- iii. Fathers and young men.
  - a) Phases of maturity... what we grow to become.
    - When little children live into who they are, they become young men and fathers.