

1 John 2:12

by John Gill

The apostle emphasizes the forgiveness of sins as a reason and argument encouraging love to God, Christ, and brethren and fellow Christians.

Scripture: Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 43:25, Matthew 6:14-15, John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13, Hebrews 8:12, 1 John 1:9, 1 John 2:12

Topics: "Forgiveness", "Love Among Believers"

Description

John Gill emphasizes the message of forgiveness in 1 John 2:12, addressing all believers as 'little children' to highlight their shared experience of God's grace. He explains that this forgiveness is not based on human merit but is a gift from God through the sacrifice of Christ, encouraging believers to love one another as they have been loved. Gill points out that this commandment of love is essential for all Christians, regardless of their spiritual maturity, as they are all recipients of God's abundant mercy. The sermon underscores the importance of recognizing our shared forgiveness and extending that grace to others.

Transcript

Ver. 12. I write unto you, little children,.... By whom the apostle means in common all the saints he writes to, whom he afterwards distributes into fathers, young men, and little children; for the same word is used here as in 1Jo 2:1; and a different one from that which is rendered little children in 1Jo 2:13; and besides, the following blessing of pardon of sin is common to all the children of God of different ages: now what the apostle says he writes unto them, intends not the epistle in general, but the new commandment of love in particular; and which he urges and enforces on them all, for this reason,

because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake; these little children had been sinners by nature and practice, and were not now without sin, but they shared in the blessing of the forgiveness of it; which arises from the abundant mercy and rich grace of God, and proceeds on the blood and sacrifice of Christ; and therefore is said to be "for his name's sake"; not for the sake of any merits in men, any services or works of theirs, but for the sake of Christ, his blood, sacrifice and satisfaction; and it reaches to all sins, original and actual, secret and open, past, present, and to come; and here intends the application of it by the Spirit of God, and the reception of it by faith: and which, as it is a reason and argument encouraging love to God, who freely and fully forgives, and to Christ, whose blood was shed for the remission of sin, so to their brethren and fellow Christians; who are equally sharers in the same blessing, and when they

should love, because they are loved of God and Christ; and whom they should forgive, because God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven them. It may be, they may be called here "little children", with a view to their interest in this blessing of grace. So the Jews say {f}, that Saul was called

""the son of one year in his reign"; 1Sa 13:1; because all his iniquities were forgiven him, qwnytk "as a sucking child" of a year old."

{f} T. Hieros. Biccurim, fol. 65. 4.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-gill/1-john-212/>

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