

A Unique Fellowship **1 John 2:12-17**

Each enjoy a growing relationship with Christ
A growth in knowledge and in experience
Challenging and encouraging one another
Ephesians 4:12-16

I. It is God's Family

1. Unique in its formation – John 1:12-13
It comes through a spiritual birth – John 3:3-7
God as our Father brings us into His family
2. Unique as Christ's Church – Matt. 16:18
It is distinct because it is spiritual in nature
It is the Lord's church – His body – His bride
It is unlike man-made worldly organizations
3. Unique in its function - Matt. 5:13-16
As salt it is to impact the world around it
This requires maintaining its distinctiveness
As light it is to illuminate the darkness of the world
This requires that its light can be clearly seen

II. It is Cross-generational – 2:12-14

1. Our world is divided
Divided along generational lines
Seniors, Baby Boomers, Generation X,
Millennials
2. Church is united in Christ
All levels come together in one fellowship
Church is a family, God's family
All families are multi-generational
Children, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents
Designed to challenge, encourage one another
Can be chronological age or level of growth
We are all part of the same family in Christ
3. Children are part of this fellowship – 12-13
United in sharing forgiveness in Jesus Christ
"Your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake"
2:12
"You have known the Father" - 13
Jesus put value on children in His kingdom
Matthew 19:13-15
Children are the future of the church
We need to build into their lives
4. Fathers are part of this fellowship – 13-14
Have experience walking with Christ
"You have known Him that is from the beginning"
Have a growing knowledge of God
Great resource for the church family
Titus 2:2-5
5. Young men are part of the fellowship – 13-14
Strong in the Lord, growing in their walk - 13
"You have overcome the wicked one"
Growing in the battle with temptation
Strong as the Word of God abides in you - 14
Learning to allow God's Word to guide your life
His Word is source of strength and victory
6. Chronological age or level of growth

III. It is Counter-cultural – 2:15-17

1. World's fellowships are part of culture
Designed to help us "fit in"
Designed to help us enjoy life on earth
2. To impact the world we must be distinct
We do not love the same things
World focus is a self-centered pursuit of life
Our focuses is more spiritual than material
Our value system more eternal than earthly
World pursues popularity, pleasure & power
Our pursue ought to a Biblical viewpoint
3. Two loves are mutually exclusive – 15
Believers are not to love the world or its things
Its philosophy, value system, its material possessions
To love the world indicates lack of love for God
And God's love is not impacting your life
You cannot serve God & this world – Matt. 6:24
To do so is spiritual adultery – James 4:4
4. World system is not of God – 16
It appeals to & caters to our fleshly desires
It urges us to live so as to please ourselves
It appeals to what looks good to us
It caters to our pride & self-advancement
It is not from God nor does it please God
5. World system headed for destruction – 17
No eternal significance in what world offers
It will all be destroyed - Revelation 17 & 18
6. Eternal significance is doing God's will – 17
Wise investors choose what has lasting value
7. Our fellowship is truly unique – it is eternal