



## A Pit Stop Called Encouragement

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1 John 2:12-14

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**REVIEW** — Let's remember what we learned in our study of 1 John 2...

Our **Purpose** in Life (vs. 1-2) — To not sin, but if we do, we have an Advocate and Propitiation in Jesus Christ.

*"I'm writing these things to you so that you **may not sin**. And **if anyone sins**, we have ..."*

Our **Pattern** in Life (vs. 3-6) — The patterns of loving obedience to Christ's commands are one of the ways the Holy Spirit deepens our assurance of our salvation.

*"By this we know that we have come to know Him, **if we keep** His commandments."*

Our **Perspective** on Love (vs. 7-11) — Our love as a Christian is a "new" kind of love because it is a love *like* Christ's, and this further assures us we are a Christian.

*"The one who **loves his brother** abides in the Light ...."*

Test # 1 — Do you confess Christ and your sin, and do you have a spirit of loving obedience to Christ?

Test # 2 — Do you love others *like* Christ has loved you?

**INTRODUCTION** — Running out of gas in a NASCAR race, really?

## LESSON — A Pit Stop Called Encouragement 2:12-14

### I. THE LIST — 3 Categories of People

The Context — Something has changed about this section in 1 John.

*“I’ve **written** to you ...”*

The Categories — Who are these 3 groups?

*“little children/children”* can refer to the **START** (the beginning stages) of the Christian’s life.

*“Fathers”* ... can refer to the **SEASONED** (the final stages) of the Christian’s life.

*“young men”* can refer to the **STRUGGLES** (the middle stages) of the Christian’s life.

The Conclusion — Why is this important?

The Bible teaches there are **LEVELS** of spiritual maturity. (John 21:15-16; Romans 14:1, 15:1; Ephesians 4:14-15; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18)

John reminds us that we need to be **DISCERNING** about where people are and what they need to be **REMINDED** of.

### II. THE LESSONS — How This Encourages Us

#### *Pit Stop Encouragements*

“Little children/children” — The encouragement of **SINS** forgiven. (vs. 12, 13c)

“Fathers” — The encouragement of **SOVEREIGNTY** forever. (v. 13a, 14a)

“Young men” — The encouragement of **STRONG** faith. (vs. 13b, 14b)

**Apply it** — So what should we do with what we’ve heard today?