**Application Questions from February 7, 2021 sermon “Stages of Discipleship”**

1. Would you say that you are growing as a Christian or are you stalled out spiritually? How committed are you? 50%? 75%? 100%?
2. John emphasizes again the truth of forgiveness in Christ (2:12). Why do you think he keeps repeating this throughout the book?
3. In this passage John uses various terms of endearment from the family. What basic affirmations of Christianity can even a “babe in Christ” understand according to verses 12-13?
4. Who is he referring to when he addresses them as “dear children”? Why do you think “fathers” are singled out?
5. Discuss the relationship between the phrase, “the word of God lives in you” and “you are strong” in verse 14? How does this correspond to overcoming the evil one in verse 13? Why are these assurances especially directed to young men?
6. What promise in verses 12-14 is most important to you? Why?
7. Read 2:15. Does this mean that we’re not supposed to love God’s world? In what sense should Christians love the world (see John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)? What about the world are we not to love according to 2:16?
8. Do you struggle more with cravings, lust of the eyes, or boasting over what you have and do? How do these three things summarize what the world is all about? Give examples from pop culture.
9. What truth from Sunday’s sermon has most impacted you this week?
10. One pastor has said that if you’re 95% committed to Christ, you’re still 5% short. What specifically is holding you back from complete commitment? Share this with someone and begin praying that God will give you a sold-out heart for Him.
11. Go through this passage again with your family and discuss what “children” and “young men” are to learn as well as the truths that “fathers” (parents) must hold on to. How can you help each other to live out these truths?