

**JOHN'S FIRST EPISTLE - Part X**  
"Spiritual Maturation"  
Reference: **I John 2:12-14**  
Pastor Larry Webb

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There are three distinct categories of Christians mentioned in these verses: " \_\_\_\_\_ , " \_\_\_\_\_ " and " \_\_\_\_\_ ."

These three groups represent three different stages of spiritual maturation.

Question: How does someone mature as a Christian? Consider this equation:

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = a **mature Christian**

Reference: **Philippians 1:9** (see screen)

John itemizes three different stages of spiritual growth; and in doing that, helps us see where we are in this maturation process.

GROUP ONE - \_\_\_\_\_ Christians  
**verses twelve** and **thirteen c** (see screen)  
These "*little children*" from **verse thirteen** represent immature Christians.

GROUP TWO - \_\_\_\_\_ Christians  
**verse thirteen b** and **verse fourteen b** (see screen)  
These "*young men*" from these verses represent maturing Christians.

John mentions three characteristics all maturing Christians manifest.

- Maturing Christians manifest \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
**verse fourteen** (cont'd) (see screen)
- Maturing Christians \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture.  
**verse fourteen** (cont'd) (see screen)
- Maturing Christians \_\_\_\_\_  
**verse fourteen** (cont'd) (see screen)  
Reference: **I Peter 5:8** (see screen)

GROUP THREE - the \_\_\_\_\_ Christians  
**verses thirteen** and **fourteen** (see screen)  
These "*fathers*" from these verses represent the most mature Christians.  
Reference: **Jeremiah 9:23-24** (see screen)

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