

**LEVEL TWO**  
**THE TODDLERS**  
teknia  
**THE LEVEL OF CONFLICT**

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**I have written to you, children (teknia), because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. 2:12**

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As I've already noted, the term translated *little children* in verse 12 is **teknia** and is different than the term he uses in verse 13, which is **paidion**.

**I. THEIR CHARACTERISTICS** – Our English equivalent of *teknia* is toddler, a young boy or girl who has passed infancy, but has not yet gotten past puberty. According to John, these little ones are now aware that they are free from sin's guilt and penalty. Though this is not unique to them, it is something they are freshly aware of. This suggests several things about these little ones.

- A. **THEY ARE JOYFUL (Luke 15:22-24).**
- B. **THEY LOVE GOD (Luke 7:36-50).**
- C. **THEY KNOW WHO THE SAVIOR IS** – "your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake."

**II. THEIR PROBLEMS** – Toddlers are going through many changes, as this is a time of rapid development. All of us experience change, but the more radical the change is the more radical the conflicts are.

- A. **CONFLICT WITH THE DEVIL.** They are aware of the obvious, but unaware of the devil's devices and how to deal with him.
  - 1. They have met him as the tempter, but not as the voice that sounds like God.
  - 2. They think that the way to deal the devil is to rebuke him.
- B. **CONFLICT WITH SELF.** They find that they have a new enemy and that this enemy is located between their own elbows. Paul says that the spirit lusts against the flesh and the flesh against the spirit. During this time they experience much frustration, because they haven't learned to properly deal with the flesh.
- C. **CONFLICT WITH GOD.** They do not understand why God doesn't comply with their every request. This will produce increased frustration until they learn trust God unconditionally.
- D. **CONFLICT WITH AUTHORITY.**
- E. **CONFLICT WITH OTHERS.** Because they have yet to discern the Body, they often find themselves competing with others. They will eventually learn to put others first and thereby bring an end to this conflict.

**III. HOW TO GROW FROM LEVEL TWO TO LEVEL THREE**

- A. **Learn to resist the devil.**
- B. **Learn to crucify self.**
- C. **Learn to submit to God.**
- D. **Learn to live with others.**
- E. **Learn servanthood.**

**IV. CONCLUSION:** If a person fails to grow beyond this level, they will become very frustrated and become a source of constant strife in the church.