In John’s epistle, he addresses all the saints nine times as “little children” (I Jo. 2:1). He begins with their blessed assurances and privileges and then gives precepts against hypocrisy. Every Christian is still a child in the sense that he is dependent upon his loving Father, receives His Word without questioning, is ever teachable, restful in His care, and full of love to Him, Who is above all. Happy childhood! if we are entirely submissive to the Father, and sweetly delight to do His will.

**Privilege I:** Your sins are forgiven you for His Name’s sake, I Jo. 2:12. Pardon for sin is the pearl of great price, for which we have sold all, in order to procure it. Here John is writing a letter to little children. The moment a man’s sins are forgiven, he is old enough to become a Bible reader and a Bible searcher.

**Privilege II:** Ye have known the Father, I Jo. 2:13. The tiniest babe in the family of God knows the Father, for, by Him were his sins forgiven. Little children may not know the things which the elder brother studies, but they know their father, and would choose him out from among a thousand. They imitate their father, and are so proud of him. So we would make God’s name great, and would greaten Him in the minds of men, and make them know what a wonderful Father we have!

**Precept I:** Sin not, I Jo. 2:1. Avoid every sin and forsake them altogether, because they will hurt you, damage you, grieve you, and displease your heavenly Father. A kitten may crawl around and purr happily in its backyard. But if one day it gets out on the street, and the owner comes to pick it up, it hisses and raises its back, resisting being picked up. When placed back in its yard, its hair lies down, it begins to purr, and everything is great. A Christian is happy only in the will of God.

**Precept II:** There are many antichrists, who would seduce you, I Jo. 2:18, so keep to the old truths of Scripture (I Jo. 2:24), not being charmed by new notions.

**Precept III:** Abide in Him, I Jo. 2:28. Little children are apt to stray, but the best place for them is at home, simply trusting in the Saviour.

**Precept IV:** Let no man deceive you (I Jo. 3:7). Children are credulous, believing idle tales. We are to believe our Savior, and no one else.

**Precept V:** Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth (I Jo. 3:18). Love is not “gooeyness” or simply emotion. It is that which seeks the highest good of the object loved. It is not infatuation, or a seeking of something for oneself. “A fellow that is all wrapped up in himself is a mighty small package.”

**Precept VI:** Ye...have overcome them, I Jo. 4:4. Children are frequently timid, but there is a power dwelling in us, which is mightier than the power that dwells in the world.

**Precept VII:** Keep yourselves from idols (last verse). Don’t be fascinated with the world’s playthings—the noise-making, glitter and show. Keep you to Christ!

