

Born of God
1 John 5:1-5

SPIRITUAL REBIRTH. v.1a

- Which comes first—belief in Jesus Christ or being born again?

1. The issue: what is the order of salvation (*ordo salutis*)?

- Does a person believe and therefore become born again as a result? Or,
- Is a person born again and therefore believes in Jesus Christ as a result?

2. What does the Bible say? 1 John 5:1

- “believes” (present tense); “has been born” (perfect tense—past event w/present consequences)
- I.e. born of God → belief.

3. The same idea is true of all the evidences of salvation—they come from spiritual rebirth.

- Obedience. 1 John 2:3, 29. Which comes first—being born again or keeping His commandments?
- Love. 1 John 3:14. Which comes first—being born again or loving the brothers?
- 1 John 5:1. Which comes first—being born again or believing that Jesus is the Christ?

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD’S PEOPLE. v.1b-2

- Everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

1. You cannot (Biblically) say: ‘I love God and His Son Jesus Christ, but I do not love Christians.’ v.1b

2. The issue: How do we know if we are truly loving God and others?

- What standard are we to use? Feelings (either ours or theirs)? Opinions? Experiences?

3. What does the Bible say? 1 John 5:2

- Loving others (Biblically) cannot be separated from God’s commandments. v.2

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD’S COMMANDMENTS. v.3

- What is the greatest commandment? Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34

1. The issue: Are the commandments of God burdensome or not burdensome? v.3

- We are warned to guard against being deceived. 1 John 2:26; 3:7; 2 Jn 7
- The world, the flesh & the devil all conspire to say this lie: “God’s commands are burdensome. Sin is not.”

2. What does the Bible say? 1 John 5:3

- Obedience is inseparable from love. When working together, God’s commands are not burdensome.

→ Application: Pray that you would see the commandments of God for what they truly are: not burdensome.

-Ask to see not only the *truth* of His commands, but their *sweetness, beauty, & goodness* as well. Ps 19:10

→ Application: Pray that you would see sin for what it truly is: burdensome!

- Psalm 16...

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD. v.4-5

1. True victory over the world (unbelief, hatred & sin) *only* comes through faith in Jesus Christ. v.4-5

2. What does the Bible say?

- Overcome the world—or it will overcome you! There is no neutral territory!
- Understand that according to the Bible there is no other way of overcoming the world.