

1 John 5:1-21

3-24-10

“Born of God, then Born to Love!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. Pray for 2 Short term mission teams:

1. **Peru team:** Henry & Geri Meyer
2. **Alamos Mexico Team:** Steve & Shawna Nowert.

B. **The story** is told of a **wealthy man** who lost his **wife** when their **only child was young**. A **housekeeper** was hired to take care of the boy, who lived only into his teens. Heartbroken from this second loss, the **father died a short time later**. No will could be found; and since there were no relatives, it looked as if the state would get his fortune. The man’s personal belongings, including his mansion, were put up for sale. The old housekeeper had very little money, but there was **one thing she wanted**. It was **a picture** that had hung on a wall in the house - **a photo of the boy** she had loved and nurtured. **When** the items were sold, nobody else wanted the picture, so **she bought it for just a few pennies**. Taking it home, she began to clean it and polish the glass. As she took it apart, **a paper fell out**. It was **the man’s will**, and in it he stated that *all his wealth should go to the one who loved his son enough to buy that picture*.

1. Vs.11 **And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.**
2. **Prayer:** On *Christ the solid Rock* I stand, all else is sinking sand...
3. This sure footing gives us **confidence** in our **prayers**; **confidence** against the **evil one**; **confidence** against **world forces**; **in helping others out of sin**.

C. Whenever John wrote he was always writing regarding 4 basic stages of Christian life:

[1] A **witness** is given to them. [2] They **believe**. [3] They receive **eternal life**. [4] They gain **assurance** in their status of eternal life.

1. Here John will once again, shore up their hearts toward assurance.

D. John says if you’re *Born of God* then you’re: **Born to Love**; **Born to Win**; **Born to Assurance**; **Born to talk to your Father**; & **Born Secure**.

II. **BORN OF GOD, THEN BORN TO LOVE!**

A. **BORN TO LOVE!** (1-3)

B. If you’re born of God, then you’re **Born to Love!**

C. The Father gave you life & the Son gave His life...*for you*.

D. (2) When you **love the Father**, you’ll **love his children** as well!

- E. **BORN TO WIN!** (4,5)
- F. If you're born of God, then you're **Born to Win!**
- G. Your **1st birth** made you a sinner & a loser, **but** your **2nd birth** makes you a conqueror.
1. **The world** wants to entice you(2:15-17); **The devil** wants to seduce you(Gen.3:6); **But Christ** will give you the victory you need if you trust Him.¹
 - a) The new birth provides the power *continually* to win victory over the world & its evil powers.
- H. John has already warned us about **the subtle attraction** of the world(2:15-17); **now** he reveals how the world may be **conquered!**
- I. (4) **Who overcomes? & by what means?** *Born again believers, by their faith.*
- J. **BORN TO ASSURANCE!** (6-13)
- K. If you're born of God, then you're **Born to Assurance!**
- L. (6-8) Explain this "*addition*" is not found nor supported in any Greek manuscript **prior to the 4th century**. [not needed. i.e. **Trinity** can be proved in many other places]
- M. **Spirit, water, blood?** Can refer to:
1. **Baptism & Lord's supper.**
 2. **Symbolic of water & blood spilt from Jesus side.**
 3. **Water** refers to His baptism & **blood** refers to His death.
 - a) **I prefer the 3rd interpretation.** The context is **the witness** that Jesus is in fact God.
 - (1) God voiced His approval of Jesus at His **baptism** (Mt.3:16,17).
 - (2) He also voiced it again before Jesus' **death** (Jn.12:27-30).
- N. (7-11) A faith that can effect such great results must be well attested.
1. What is the 5-fold witness: **spirit, water, blood**(8); **God**(9); **eternal life**(11).
 2. You may hear witnesses/testimony, truth, life, confidence,...that's Christianity.
- O. On the other hand you're not even allowed to critique the **Koran**. Only Christianity?
1. **In** the **West** our religion can be ridiculed, **in** the **East** their religion is protected
 2. **Debate the Koran?** How, they say, "*The Koran says it, I believe it.*"
 3. **You dare not decry Islam** in Saudi Arabia; **You dare not denounce Hinduism** in India; **You dare not deprecate Buddhism** in Thailand; **You dare not despise Naturalism** in the Academy.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.840

- a) The only worldview that's open to this kind of assault & can take it on the chin is the *Judaeo/Christian* worldview.
- b) **Truth** is bulletproof...we have nothing to worry about.
- c) In 1966, China, Mao Zedong said, "Christianity is permanently buried & will never rise again. It has been expunged from our culture."
 (1) Today over 100,000 claim to follow Christ!
 (2) 10 years later(1976) Mao Zedong was the one that was buried, & he will 1 day rise again...to stand in judgment for trying to withhold Christianity from a billion people.

P. (13) You **know** that you can **have** eternal life. (1 of my fav verses)

- 1. That you may **know** not always **feel**!
- 2. A man once came to **D. L. Moody** and said he was worried because he didn't **feel** saved. Moody asked, "Was Noah safe in the ark?" "Certainly he was," the man replied. "Well, what made him safe, his **feeling** or the **ark**?"

Q. **BORN TO TALK TO YOUR FATHER/PRAY!** (14-17)

R. If you're born of God, then you're **Born to talk to your Father!**

S. You are born to talk to your Father in prayer & receive from Him what you need.

- 1. It has well been said that **prayer** is not a way of overcoming God's **reluctance** but laying hold of His **willingness**.²

T. (16) **Mortal sin** - i.e. *The deliberate, purposeful choice of darkness in preference to light.*

- 1. Sometimes a Christian may **sin so seriously** that God judges that sin with **swift physical death**: "*a sin that leads to death.*"
 - a) **Ananias & Sapphira** are cases in point (Acts 5:1-11).
 - b) **Some believers at Corinth** died because of the way they had acted at the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:30).
 - c) 1 Corin. 5 suggests that **a certain offender** would have died had he not repented and confessed his sin (2 Cor. 2:6-8).
- 2. But most of the sins which one sees a Christian brother commit are **not** of such a nature.
 - a) **For these**, a believer **ought to pray**, knowing that any sin - if continued in long enough - is a threat to a fellow Christian's life.
 - b) **Thus the restoration of a brother** may secure a prolonging of his physical life.

² Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in the NT.

U. **BORN SECURE!** (18-21)

V. If you're born of God, then you're **Born Secure!**

W. Born secure so the evil one cannot harm you.

X. **Wow 6 great certainties** - "know" (13,15,18,19,20a&b)

Y. **You do not keep yourself saved, for the Father does that!** (Jude 24).

1. **But...you keep yourself from the clutches of the wicked one.**

Z. Abide in Christ & experience His love & care.

AA.If I can add one, that John missed here, yet I think its inferred, we're **Born to be Wild!**

1. Wild means *undomesticated*. So many Christians have been so domesticated.

2. *Domesticare*(L.) = tame, *belonging to the house* (mama's boy).

3. John desired **raw & untamed faith** waiting to be unleashed.

4. I think later that's what John meant in his Revelation, about **leaving their 1st love**. They left their **primal faith!** A life fueled by His presence.

a) **The way of Jesus is far too savage** for too many folks: "sacrifice, blood, guts, a cross, a call to die daily?"

b) **2 invisible kingdoms** duke-ing it out for the very hearts & lives of every human walking on the face of this planet.

c) **Jesus is being lost in a religion bearing His name.** :(

d) As Christians I think it is the **combo** of being fully aware of your **inadequacies &** yet knowing your **extraordinary potential** in Christ.

(1) **Domesticated faith** or out finding adventure?

BB.(21) In the meanwhile...*Keep yourselves from idols!*

1. **Carved figures?** Probably broader term. *Anything in the Christian's life that elbows God out of center place in our lives.*

a) Any **cardboard cut-out substitutes** for the living & true God.

(1) **Like, the pocket-sized God** of over-familiarity, whom you can **predict his every move, even condition his responses!**

(2) Or, the unapproachable scary fly-off-the-handle God.

2. I'll let our **last song** speak to the rest of that.