

1 John 4:17-5:5

Announcements:

- Women's conference - this coming weekend - Friday and Saturday - (still time to sign up!)
- New volunteer mtg - next Sunday after 3rd service (register ahead of time please)
- 3rd Service Baby dedication - Ryan and Hope Hall (Sadie Grace Hall (5 weeks old))

Please open to **1 John Chapter 4** (Need a Bible? ... chairs/hands ...)

- Last time: **This is Love** - **Defined... Demonstrated... Displayed...** (No one has seen God)
- This time: Jumps back into idea of **"perfected"** love with a few others for those **Born of God**

Message Title: A New Operating System!

- **Freed From Fear** (verses 4:17-18)
- **Compelled to Love** (verses 4:19-21)
- **Unburdened in Obedience** (verses 5:1-3)
- **Victorious in Faith** (verses 5:4-5)

Austin "Tech" analogy... New operating system!

- **Hardware** remains the same, but **new software** is installed. (body vs spirit)
- The OS: **main blueprint** that all the other programs run on. (master manager - **"head chef"**)
- **Apply the Believer**: *Not just a little upgrade.. Something deeper* has happened, **a new OS!**
 - *Not something we install ourselves, it's something God does in our lives...*

In these nine verses, John shows us **four programs** that now run differently in everyone born of God.

- *Let's look at the first one...*

Freed From Fear (verses 4:17-18)

V. 17 - Love has been **perfected** among us in this:

- **Agape love**. God's love. **Among us**, the church.
- **Perfected (teleioo)** = "to accomplish, complete, mature, finish, bring to an end..."
- **Not flawless**, but it is more mature... (**goal reaching... like fruit fully ripened!**)
- **James 2:22, ESV** - "You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was **completed/perfected/matured (teleioo)** by his works..."
 - **Abraham's actions** brought **faith to its intended destination...** (not just "talk")
- But **John is giving us a different nuance...** *Agape Love is more complete... In this way:*

V. 17 - That we may have **boldness in the day of judgment**

- This verse is **meant to be a comfort** for the Christian on **the day of Judgment**, but let me first remind you that **this day is coming upon the whole world...**
- **Judgement (Krisis)** = "a separating, trial, sentence of condemnation, justice" (English: 'Crisis')
- **John 5:24** - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall **not come into judgment (krisis)**, but has passed from death into life..." (**the believer is not to fear this day!**)
- **Boldness (parresia)** - "confidence, free access; 'the right of a free citizen to speak openly.'"
- Yeah! **Like a kid before His dad**, not **a convict before a judge** (and, **here's why...**)

V. 17 - *Because **as He is, so are we** in this world.*

- **Positionally**, right now, we are **so identified with Christ**, the Father **sees us as He does His own Son**. Our **sin has already been judged** and Christ's **righteousness is already in our lives!**
- **Romans 8:1, NASB** - "Therefore there is now no condemnation at all **for those who are in Christ Jesus.**"

V. 18 - *There is **no fear in love***

- **Fear (phobos)** = "dread, terror, alarm, panic, or tormenting fear" (English: 'phobia')
 - **Funny Phobes**: Long words, peanut butter sticking to roof of mouth, duck watching you, fear of mother-in-law, without cell phone, cheese, beards, dinner party convos, and more
- **Fear is the opposite of boldness!**
- **Fear. Reverence?** Yeah! **Terror?** No! John is addressing the "**dread of condemnation**"

V. 18 - *But perfect love **casts (drives) out fear***

- **Evicted** Notice! (**similar wordage used for casting out demons!**)
- **The fruit of sin** is fear, shame, guilt, **all the way back...**
- **Genesis 3:10, NLT** - "I heard you walking in the garden, **so I hid. I was afraid...**"
- The Gospel ("**perfect love**") changes us! **It reverses Eden...** (no need to hide anymore!)

V. 18 - *Because **fear involves torment***

- **Torment (kolasis)** - "correction, punishment, penalty, penal suffering..." (not Kolachies, haha)
- **The only other time this word is used...**
- **Matthew 25:46, CSB** - "...they will go away into **eternal punishment (kolasis)**, but the righteous into eternal life." - Some should fear "**final judgment**", others should not. (**which are you?**)
 - Remember, **Christ took our punishment.**
- **Romans 8:14-15, NLT** - "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So **you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'**"

V. 18 - *But he who fears has **not been made perfect** in love.*

- **Still afraid of God and the coming judgment?** You have **more maturing** to do...
- Some faithful believers **carry a sense of dread** they can't name, **soak in this love.**
- It's like a "**pop-up or error**" **from the old system** trying to come back... **Soak in God's love.**

Compelled to Love (verses 4:19-21)

Don't need to spend too long here... **been hitting it for weeks!** (*John singeth his song again*)

V. 19 - *We love... **because He first loved us.***

- Amen! **We talked about it last week.** His love is **the fountainhead** (**regifting is biblical, ha!**)
 - **It's a response to Bethlehem!**
- **First (protos)** - "first in time or place, or in succession of persons; first in rank, influence, or principle..." (*I say amen to all of these!*)
 - **Remove Protos** and you've got "**Religion**". **Keep it** and you've got "**the Gospel**"

- Deuteronomy 7:6-8, CSB - "For you are a holy people belonging to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord had his heart set on you and chose you, **not because you** were more numerous than all peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. **But because the Lord loved you** and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors, he brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from the place of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt."
- Some of you have been **striving to manufacture** love for God so that God will love you. But that's the opposite of the Gospel. **He's the power source, we're the outlet. Not deserving!**
- "Jesus loved you when you lived carelessly, when you neglected his Word, when the knee was unbent in prayer. Ah! He loved some of you when you were in the dancing saloon, when you were in the playhouse... He loved you when you were at hell's gate, and drank damnation at every draught. He loved you when you could not have been worse or further from him than you were. Marvellous, O Christ, is thy strange love!" (Spurgeon)

V. 20 - If someone says, 'I love God', and hates his brother, **he is a liar**

- John has already hit on this a few times. Dealing with an ongoing state of hate...
- **Liar (pseustes)** = "liar, one who breaks faith, a false and faithless person..."
- Not just inconsistent or mistaken, **false reality! Perfect love drives out fear, and hate!**

V. 20 - For he who does not love his brother **whom he has seen**, how can he love God **whom he has not seen?**

- From the lesser to the greater: if you **can't do the easier**, how can you do **the harder** one?
- "It is a false boast when anyone says that he loves God but neglects His image which is before his eyes" (John Calvin)
- Think of a **three year old girl with a rag doll**. Over time... more rag, less doll. **Filthy. Frayed (odor?)**. - sensible thing, throw it out! But that's unthinkable if you love the little girl. **If you love the girl, you love the ragdoll**. It's **part of the package!**
 - God says: **Love me? Love my rag dolls.. Haha, is that a weird analogy?**
- **The fact that the command to love is on repeat** shows us it is **not always easy**.
- **(A name?) Struggle? Preach verse 19 to yourself before you attempt verse 20.**
 - You can't pour from an empty cup, but you can **stand under a waterfall! Overfloweth!**

V. 21 - And **this commandment** we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

- **The Great Commandment** reiterated... **(sums up the Law and Prophets! (Deut 6 / Lev. 19))**
 - Not "The Great Suggestion..." **New OS... will run this program...**

Next program...

Unburdened in Obedience (verses 5:1-3)

Before knowing God, his commands seem like **distant, harsh rules**, but **not anymore for God's kids!**

V. 1 - Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ **is born of God**

- **Born of God** is **the person with the new OS**. Accessed by **belief!**
- **Jesus is the Christ!** There is **no other!** (not "**has**" but "**is**")
- **Believes** = **present**, **(Active)** ongoing...

- **Has been born** = **perfect** (passive) a finished act, with permanent results....
 - **Believing is the evidence** of the new birth... **Something has happened!**
- **We don't love and obey** God **to become** God's children, we do so **because we already are!**
 - **Obedience** is the **Fruit**, **not the root...**

Call back to the previous section, but in **"the context of obedience"** to God's commands...

V. 1 - **Everyone who loves Him who begot (loves the Father) also loves him who is (born) of Him.**

- **It's a family!** We love the **dad** and the **siblings** (hug the dad **while sticking tongue out?**)
- One of the **greatest ways you can show love to me** is by **showing it to my kids**. **I receive that!**

V. 2 - **By this we know that we love the children of God**

- Here we go, **another test...**

V. 2 - **When we love God and keep His commandments.**

- Emphasis here on **keeping** His commandments.
- Likely **Gospel commandments** of the N.T.
- **"Christians frequently attempt to turn love for God into a mushy emotional experience, but John does not allow this in his epistle."** (James Montgomery Boice)

V. 3 - **For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.**

- **Not the punishment of a harsh cop**, but **the love of God is built into the commandments!**
- **For our protection and benefit!** (not a **500 page licensing agreement** you scroll through and just click agree... picture instead: **guardrails on a steep mountain road!**) **hot stove!**
- **Psalms 40:8 - "I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart..."**
 - **For our Good and His glory!**
- **Genesis 29:18-20 - "Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for Rachel, your younger daughter.' ...so Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her."**
- **Like a kid practicing the piano** and **watching the clock**.
 - Thirty minutes **feels like 5 hours**... Every scale played is a **sentence served**...
 - But, the same kid, **once the music becomes "His"** - will sit at the bench for two hours in joy and **forget to even eat**.
 - **The activity didn't change, the heart did!**

V. 3 - **And His commandments are not burdensome.**

- **Burdensome (barys)** - "heavy in weight, severe, hard to bear, violent, cruel, unsparing"
- **Quick clarifier**, says, **not burdensome**, but **does not say, never costly**. Obedience to God can cost you much but still not be a burden... **(A wedding! A farmer!)**
- **Matthew 23:1-4, NIV - "Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 'The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders [They crush people with unbearable religious demands' NLT], but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them..."**
- **Language Fun!:** The **"heavy, cumbersome loads"** of the Pharisees is **phortia barea** - and **"barea" is the plural of "barys"** (identical word in **1 John 5:3 (bareiai)**).

- John is **deliberately contrasting** **God's commands with the Pharisees'**
- **Man's laws ARE** burdensome (i.e. **Pharisees**), but that is **not God's heart for us...**
- **Matthew 11:28-30, CSB** - "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**"
- Especially for the person **given a new heart!**
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes**, and you will keep My judgments and do them."
 - **Also, Jeremiah 31...** (**God's Plan: Inside, out!** (not the other way around...))
 - **Call back to the Piano illustration: not forced, now desire...**
- If living for God and following His ways starts to **feel like a heavy dreadful burden**, that's **drift back into the old OS...** back into **"performing for acceptance"** instead of **"obeying from acceptance"** - The fix is not **"try harder"** it's **going back to Identity** and **receiving God's love**.

Final OS program running, not just **"inner"** life, but also how we relate **"out there..."**

Victorious in Faith (verses 5:4-5)

The one Born of God does not live **a timid life of defeat**, or even **a mundane life of mere survival**, but **a powerful life of victory!** (I love **war/battle movies**, **good vs evil, light vs darkness** - **TRUTH!**)

V. 4 - Born of God =

- **Overcomes the World...** **present, ongoing...**
- From **victory that has overcome...** **Aorist, decisive. Accomplished. Done.**
- **Our victory** is operating from **a victory that has already been won!** **From**, not **for!**

V. 4 - For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.

- **"Whatever"** is in the **neuter**, which means God is **not necessarily highlighting you or I as the victorious "person"** but, He's **highlighting the victorious power** found in those **"born of God"**
- Meaning: **our victory is not credited to "gritting it out"** but to **God's work in those Born of Him!**
- And **the language is rich** in its original text...!
 - **Nik** - "to conquer, to carry off the victory, to win the case" (English: 'Nike')
 - **Nike = the Greek goddess of victory...** (The **"Swoosh"** took her name and wings)
 - **Overcomes (nika)** - Present, ongoing, right now.
 - **The victory (nikē)** - The noun. The triumph itself.
 - **Has overcome (nikēsasa)** - Aorist. Finished. Settled. Done.
- John is **hammering this point home!** (**in contrast to the false Greek gods!**)
- **World (Kosmos)** - **whole system against God...** **And it is seductive!**
 - **The world sells you a system...** **a version of false victory** you can **"wear"** or **"buy"**
 - But **God is offering you something better**, accessed through **"Faith" (v. 4)**
- One system **wears out in a year**, the other **overcomes for eternity!** (**which do you want?**)
- **1 John 2:16-17** - "For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And **the world is passing away**, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."
- **Two ways to offer change:**

- Prove “the ways of **the world**” **worthless & vain** (**Ecclesiastes!**) - *can help; not fully*
- **Show the heart something more beautiful** . **Displaced by a superior love!**
- Friends, **Christ is better and more beautiful** than anything the world will ever offer you!

V. 4 - This is the victory that has overcome the world—**our/your faith**

- **David vs Goliath... Joshua and Jericho... Hebrews 11...**

To be clear, it's **not just faith in faith**, or **faith in God in General**. There is **an object of our faith!**

V. 5 - Who is **he who overcomes the world**, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- **Victory is found in a person**, The divine person. **Christ Himself!**
- **1 Cor. 15:57. NET** - “But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**”

Closing:

We opened today looking to the **Garden of Eden** and we close the same:

- **Adam was hiding in fear** due to **sin and shame...**
- We close w/ **the Seed of the woman** who came and **crushed the serpent's head!** (Gen 3:15)

Two guardrails:

- **Triumphalism:** John is not promising... **rich, healthy, and untouched by suffering** (**patmos**)
 - **Sometimes overcoming looks like a martyr's death** unto a heavenly coronation
- **Despair:** Some feel like **the world is winning in you**. **Addictions, fear, sins resurfacing...**
 - Your struggles are not evidence you're losing the war, but that you're in the fight!

Don't give up, friends, look to God. **His ways are better**. And the **victory has already been won!**

- **John 16:33** - “These things but be of good cheer, for I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; **I have overcome (nikao) the world.**”

One source: “Born of God”

- ...at the top of this passage **(4:7)**, at the hinge **(5:1)**, and at the climax **(5:4)**. **Have you?**

PRAY