

1 John 5:1-12

New Life Through Faith

Image Church // First John: Week 9

Introduction

Welcome guests...

If you have your Bible, turn to 1 John...

- *If you don't have a Bible, we have one for you at the Connection Center!*

*We have **faith** in things all the time...*

1 John 5:1-12

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of him.

He starts with this:

If you believe in Jesus, you have been born of God...

- **2 Cor. 5:17**...
- This idea of being born of God...

Illustration: John 3, Jesus and Nicodemus... Religious leader, confused and comes to Jesus... *Says Jesus we know you're a teacher from God, no one could do what you do if that weren't the case...*

- Jesus jumps right at it... *Unless you're born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God...*
- Nicodemus was confused... *How does that work, I can't get back in my mom's stomach?!?*
- Jesus was talking about experiencing the new life that He was going to bring...
- The way that it happens is through faith in the finished work of Jesus...

Being born of God means that you become a child of God...

- **1 John 3:1**: *see what great love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God. [reference verse]*

As a child of God, you embody the things of God...

- We've talked about this. John's shown it to us a bunch and is about to do it again, but Christianity is more than just a prayer that you pray... It's a surrendering of your life...
 - When that happens, you get a new life and a new power through the Holy Spirit, and this changes your perspective on life and your pursuit in this life...

This is what John says next... **Everyone who loves the Father also loves the ones born of Him...** *If you love God, then you also love His children... Other Believers... You don't love me and hate my kids...*

- **Ex:** If you love me, you also love my kids... You don't love my kids, you don't love me...

John again is showing us the basics of the gospel: love through us, love through us... What God has shown to us, we show to others... This is what it looks like to embody the things of God as a child of God...

Then John says this in verse 2:

² This is how we know that we love God's children: when we love God and obey his commands. ³ For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands.

Here's what John shows us right here... **Our ability to rightly love our brothers and sisters comes as an overflow of our love for God...** The call here isn't just to love... The call here is to love God... *And watch how this plays out...*

- As you love God— *remember love is an action Joh shows us that here*— and the act of loving God is living how He's called us to live in light of what He's done for us...

- **And here's the connection:** as we do that, as we love God by living how He's called us to live, it will lead to love for your brothers and sisters in the best way possible...

This is where the world and even professing Christians get it wrong...

Here's what happens, people want to love in a way that THEY FEEL is loving... They don't let God shape what love looks like. Instead, they define it in their own terms according to what they deem as loving...

There's a lot in the name of love that's actually not loving according to what God's laid out in His Word...

- And what happens is it ends up perpetuating things in the name of love that are actually counter to God... And that's ultimately not loving...

Example: Affirming a pattern of living that's out of bounds with God's design- sexually (in any way homo/hetero) is a big one...

- **Or here's another one...** How to care for people... People get turned into projects and not viewed as Image Bearers... Helping is about feeling better about yourself and not about bringing restoration...
- **Or another one:** We withhold truth because we feel like it's not loving...
 - But here's the thing, speaking the truth is actually the most loving thing... Now how we do it matters... But speaking the truth is the most loving thing that we can do...
 - Jesus modeled this...
 - And listen, the gospel is a hard truth, it's offensive... But it is true and the implications are incredible...

When we try to define love on our own terms, it's not actually loving... God's the one that needs to shape our love for one another... This is why obedience to Him is the best way that we can love one another...

- Apart from what God lays out in scripture, we don't know what love really looks like. We have a jaded view and we struggle with the approval of man too easily...

That's why I love how John packages this together... He says that we will love our brothers rightly when we love God rightly- which is living in the way that He's called us to live...

Here's the last thing that I'll say on this... The opposite of this is also true, if obedience to God is the most loving thing for our brothers and sisters, then disobedience when it comes to the things of God is unloving to our brothers and sisters...

I think we often think that our obedience or lack of obedience doesn't impact others, but what John's showing us here is that it does... Godly obedience matters personally and corporately!

- Private sin bleeds out in a corporate way... **IOW:** the people closest to you in the church will be impacted by your sin...

Example: Selfishness (sin)... Plays out in not serving, giving, helping, ect...

- This is unloving to your brothers and sisters, and they feel the impact...

The way we love one another in the best way possible is to love God and live the way that God's called us to live... This will shape and show us how to love!

Then John says this about God's commands...

And his commands are not a burden, ⁴ because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.

I love this! It's easy for us to think that living how God's called us to live is going to be a burden... John's saying it's not...

What John's showing us is that obedience reminds you of the victory that you have in Jesus!

- There's a freedom that you've experienced through Christ that sets you free from the chains of the world and the things of this world...
- Love for God, following after Him, reminded of who He is and what He's done...

Here's the thing about obedience, it is a gospel reenactment...

- *Flesh out...*

And it all rests on faith... *Believing that Jesus is real and worth it...*

- Not contingent on you but contingent on Him... The victory isn't your works, but your faith in Christ's work!
 - *Flesh out...* Pastor people...

Obedience isn't a burden, it's a blessing because in and through it we're reminded of who and what we have faith in...

- Causes us to anchor our hope on Jesus...
- And when we fail we're reminded of the gospel...

Now, what John's going to do is anchor our faith, not just tell us to have it... Verse 5

⁵ Who is the one who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ Jesus Christ—he is the one who came by water and blood, not by water only, but by water and by blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are in agreement.

This has been long discussed and debated... There's really 3 main ways this could play out...

1. Water, blood... Natural Birth of Jesus... Proving and showing that Jesus was fully God and fully man...
 - But John talked about this idea in **1 John 4:2** and says it plainly that *Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and is from God.*

2. Water, blood... Crucified on the cross... Spear in the side... Blood and water came out...
 - But the challenge is how is this affirmation? Maybe to His humanity, or His death, but there was no doubt He was dead, and that He was human...
3. Water, blood... Baptism, Cross, Affirmation of the Spirit throughout His ministry... Beginning of His ministry and end of His ministry...

Here's the thing, the goal of all **3 perspectives** is the divinity of Jesus and His sacrificial death... The goal is to see Jesus for who He is... That He was fully God and fully man...

Jesus is who He said He is... We saw it in His life, death and His resurrection... The question is do you believe?!?!

Verse 9:

⁹ If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is greater, because it is God's testimony that he has given about his Son. ¹⁰ The one who believes in the Son of God has this testimony within himself. The one who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony God has given about his Son.

Appeal to actual belief in Jesus...

- Belief **that** vs believe **in**...
- This is so much more than lip service, it's life surrender...

Verse 11

¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Accepting the testimony of Jesus... Give you access to eternal life...

This reorients your perspective and your pursuit...God is your aim
and you seek after Him, following how He calls you to live...

- By product is love for your brothers and sisters in the faith...

Conclusion [Vamp]