

The Narrow and Victorious Path

1 John 5:1-5

Chapter 5 is no less full than any other chapter... in fact, it's almost as if John was running out of paper and started packing the suitcase extra full.

Chapter five starts on the same topic of agape, God like love, but from the perspective of faith and belief. *In fact, of the 10 times that John teaches on faith & belief, 7 of them are in this final chapter.*

1 John 5:1

John is almost remembering and writing about what Jesus told Nicodemus.

To run from God's wrath you must run to His grace.

Believes: belief that gives way to commitment – trust

I love him but I won't marry him. (commitment issues)

Roommates with Jesus – lukewarm

Tomas eventually came to a place of belief but had to wrestle doubt first.

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Believes

(Faith that tips the scale of our actions)

Is born – (Not as abstract or mystical as it may sound, this is the biblical description of what happens when you come to faith in Christ.)

you have a physical birthday, you have a spiritual birthday.

Simultaneously or at the same time you become forgiven and clean before The Father and you are made a new creation with a new life in Christ. (The New You)

You have a new life, a life that knows nothing of shame, guilt, or condemnation and is daily familiar with forgiveness and God's everlasting love and mercy.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Everyone who loves God loves God's people...

We may not have the same expression but we do have the same experience.

Water always cascades, falls and flows downhill.

(vs. 2 & 3 braid of truth)

1 John 5:2-3

By this we know that we love the children of God... when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of (for) God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

It's funny... we are not only to love the children of God but to remember we are one of God's children.

Separated at birth (Calvary Pastors Meeting)

Unity – we do not fight **for** unity, we fight **from** unity.

- a. We don't forgive to stay unified
- b. Because we are unified we forgive... there is no other way.

(vs. 2 & 3)

both say the same thing about how we handle the commands God gave us.

KEEP: Preserve, hold fast, attend to, take care of, to guard

House plants need water, dogs need food, cars need to be cleaned.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to **observe** all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Observe: careful attention...

Like driving in a new town

Learning to handle firearms.

Now... LIKE CHRIST... we joyfully lay our lives down for the brethren.

Idaho intersection, four way stop sign

Visit Idaho vs. move to Idaho vs. become Idaho (4 way stop sign)

Become Kingdom

Commandments are not burdensome

The Lord gave His life a holy sacrifice, we give our lives in joyful service.

Burdensome: Heavy, hard to bear,
To be severe, stern, or cruel, to make difficult

“Never have you hear a true Christian say that the love of God requiring him to live a holy life was stern and grievous.”

ASSSSS YOUUUU WISHHHHH

Can you imagine Jesus, grumbling while washing their feet?

The Kingdom is not harsh, nor is it heavy

Scribes and Pharisees made life SO HARD!

Matthew 23:4 “For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

One of the lawyers listening to the scribes and pharisees getting rebuked.

Luke 11:46 And He said, “Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.

- *What He requires is not beyond our ability*
- *God’s rules are not unrealistic*

Next time you want to complain about the narrow path, thank God there is one.
His love is that there IS a narrow path. That there is a path at all.

It is the will of an all-wise, all loving Father who seeks our highest welfare
It’s easy to obey God when your heart is right...
Is your heart right? Is it easy to follow the Lord.

John 5:1-3 God's children are loving children

John 5:4-5 God's children are overcomers

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Overcomes: conquer, prevail, get the victory

The gold means nothing without the game

Overcome the world... Kosmos (anything and everything the world could throw at you)
Belief that results in conviction, trust, and holy fervor.

Nothing can overcome a child of God

(Prevail, get the victory, conquer) – **The Deception & Desperation of the end.**

1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Lust of the eyes, flesh and pride of life.

We overcome because He overcame...

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Saving faith gives way to living faith (Love and victory)

1 John 5:5 - Jesus made the way... we just walk down it.

Christ loved with that agape, God like love that was attentive, giving, sacrificial and overcame, and then overcame... even the grave. And so, in Him we live and move and have our being... like water cascades downhill, we love as we have been loved, we overcome because Christ overcame all things - *It's who we are because it's who He is!!!*

1 Peter 1:4-5 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Overcome the deception and desperation of the end days...
Kept by the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.

All Glory to God.