

VICTORY IN THE NEW BIRTH

1 John 5:1-5

INTRODUCTION

Illustration – In the business world there is a tactic called an “Elevator Pitch” – you have a very short time to give a succinct, consolidated bit of information in the hopes of gaining interest in what you are presenting.

What is simple fundamental boiled down truth about what it means to be a Christian. Social justice? Doctrine? Love? (How do you define it?) Rules and regulations? Others...

In 1 John, we see faith, truth, love, and obedience. Then the new birth and victory!

Our text this morning is a five-verse sandwich with faith as the bread holding the contents together and obedience, love, and victory in the middle, as filling. It is John’s “elevator pitch” for what it means to be a Christian.

READ 1 John 5:1-5

Proposition: 5 Fundamentals interwoven throughout our text:

- I. Faith
- II. New Birth
- III. Love
- IV. Obedience
- V. Victory

So That:

The 1st Fundamental, ...

I. Faith

1 John 5:1a

Point – John wants to settle the hearts of believers and unsettle the hearts of the unbelievers.

Proof – “^{1a}**Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ**”

– 3:23; 4:1, 16; **5:1, 5**, 10, 13

Original Greek word is *pisteuo* – believe, in noun form – faith

There are many Fundamental Principles of the Reformation:
Sola Deo Gloria, Sola Scriptura, Church of Believers,
Priesthood of All Believers, Sanctity of All Callings

But the battle cry issue of the Reformation is *Sola Fide*:
Salvation by Faith Alone

This is the Shibboleth, the dividing line, between biblical
Christianity and every false belief system in the world.

Salvation by faith alone is at the **heart of the Gospel**.

John is not talking about blind faith, he is not talking about any faith, he is not talking about a faith...he is talking about the faith in Christ.

Historical reality and experiential certainty that “**Jesus is the Christ**”. Because Jesus is the Jesus of history, He can be the Jesus of now...some 2000 years later for you and for me as well.

John is talking about the birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension of Jesus Christ and His present rule.

Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God* – “*The sun in the heavens is not glorified but in his beams, and the beam is not glorified but by the communication of light from the sun; what glory the sun hath is discovered in the beam, what glory the beam hath redounds to the sun.*”

→ What he is illustrating here is that you cannot glorify the Son without glorifying the Father and when you are glorifying the Father, you are also glorifying the Son.

Illustration – Michael Reeves, a speaker at the Shepherd’s Conference, talked about other than the eternal God of the Bible, where does the world come from? Nothingness, chaos,

or a god or gods throwing their weight around capriciously, occasionally creating because they either want friends or servants. What a contrast to our eternal God.

Application – We are saved by faith alone in Christ alone – that is at the center of the biblical gospel.

The 2nd Fundamental, ...

II. New Birth 1 John 5:1b

Point – When you think of the new birth you may instantly go to John chapter 3. When you think of regeneration, you may go to Titus 3. But actually, 1 John references the new birth more than any other book.

Proof – “**is born of God**” – everyone believing that Jesus is the Christ

“**is born of God**” – 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18

Regeneration → What is causal and what is consequential?
Belief and the new birth; faith and regeneration – which comes first?

The text answers the question – first comes regeneration and then comes faith. Literally → “Everyone who is believing has (already) been born of God”

Stott – “*The combination of present tense (believes) and perfect tense [has been born] is important. It shows clearly that believing is the consequence, not the cause, of the new birth. Our present, continuing activity of believing is the result, and therefore, the evidence, of our past experience of new birth by which we became and remain God’s children.*”

Believing in Jesus is the <u>evidence</u> of new birth. It is not the <u>cause</u> of new birth.

Eph 2: 1-10 – The first seven verses tell us that it was God’s work, His regeneration that is the vehicle that delivers the gift of faith we have.

Illustration – “Lazarus “freely” rotted, but at the word of Christ he “freely” came forth.” So do we!

Application – Regeneration precedes faith.

The 3rd Fundamental, ...

III. Love

1 John 5:1c-2a

Point – John lets us know what the new birth is and what the new birth does

Proof – “^{1c}**and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.** ^{2a}**By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God”**

Same grammar as believing – everyone believing is already born of God and everyone loving the Father....

“and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him”

literally is “loves the one born of Him”

NIV – “loves his child as well”

ESV – “loves whoever has been born of him”

KJV – “everyone that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him”

The **Divine Sonship** of Jesus is the Apostle John’s battle cry. His supernatural birth is the pattern for our supernatural birth.

“^{2a}By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God”

John defines what true love is.

He writes to: Settle the heart of the believer and to unsettle the heart of the unbeliever. He writes to: seat and unseat.

→ He guards against fake love. He guards against rigid legalism (4:7-21) and mushy sentimentalism (5:2).

Illustration – You could feed someone. You could dress someone ... love someone (as you define “love”). But if these are absent from loving God according to His word, it’s not true love.

→ You could “love” them on their way to hell.

→ and You could “love” them on your way to hell.

... is what John is saying ...

You may remember ...

Illustration – In the engine-room of great ships of the past, it was impossible to look into the massive boiler and see how much water it contained. But running beside the boiler was a tiny glass tube which served as a gauge.

→ As the water stood in the little tube, so it stood in the great boiler. When the tube was half full, the boiler was half full; when the tube was empty, the boiler was empty.

Application – How do you know you love God?? Look at the gauge in the little glass tube of your love for your brother → Your love for your brother is the measure of your love for God.

Application – In the same way, when the boiler was half full, the tube was half full; when the boiler was empty, the tube was empty.

How do you know you love your brother?

→ Look at your love for God.

The 4th Fundamental, ...

IV. Obedience

1 John 5:2b-3

Point – “^{2a}**By this we know**” → God tells us how we are known.
→ We are not known to be genuine children of God by our emotional intensity, but by our moral integrity.

Morality is not an optional ‘add-on’

Edwards in *A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections* –
“Grace planted in the heart in a new birth is a principle of holy action and always produces an abiding change of nature in a true convert. Therefore, whenever a profession of conversion is not accompanied by holiness of life, it must be understood that the individual concerned is not a Christian,”

John guards his beloved children against: rigid legalism, mushy sentimentalism and → careless hedonism.

Proof – “^{2b}**and observe His commandments**.”

“^{2b}**and observe His commandments**”

Literally “do His commandments” – 2:3-4 (keep), 7-8; 3:22-24 (22,23 keep); 4:21; 5:2-3 (3 keep); 2 John 4-6 (6 walk in)

“³**For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments;**

The easy believism, antinomian, anti-Lordship of Christ folks don’t just teach you can be an unholy “believer,” they actually teach you can be an unbelieving “believer.” I wish I was joking.

“**that**” – *ina* - purpose statement!

“^{3b}**and His commandments are not burdensome.**”

Matt 23:4 – “And they tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves are unwilling to move them with *so much as* a finger.”

Loving God means, among other things, having a heart where the commandments of God are not burdensome.

→ It is our delight rather than mere duty.

Psa 40:8 – “I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart.”

Psa 119:16 – “I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.”

Psa 119:24 – “Thy testimonies also are my delight; *They are* my counselors.”

Psa 119:35 – “Make me walk in the path of Thy commandments, for I delight in it.”

Psa 119:92 – “If Thy law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction.”

→ Beloved, retreat to a nook with the Book...immerse yourself in the Word of God and that will flame that which is already created in you – a love for others because you love God.

How do you know you love your brother?

→ Look at your love for God.

How do you know you love God?

→ Look at your life.

Application– Understand that obeying His commandments is a glorious possibility... not a depressing impossibility.

The **5th Fundamental**, ...

V. Victory

1 John 5:4-5

Beloved, everything changes: empires, civilizations, social systems, religions and philosophies, have gone down into the gates of Hades; but the church of Jesus Christ survives and spreads.

Point – The Gospel message shines out over the storm-swept shores, the one lighthouse for the laboring ship of human destiny.

Proof – “⁴**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.** ⁵**And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”**

“^{4a}**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world;**

“**overcome**” – from the Greek word - νικάω

“**victory**” – νίκη → we get the English word Nike from this – Greek goddess of victory and triumph

“**overcomes**” – be victorious, win, defeat, conquer

→ another John favorite – we see this word 3 times in the Septuagint, Luke uses it once, Paul three times → John uses it 24 times – **1 John 2:13-14; 4:4; 5:4-5**

Rev 3:5 – “He who overcomes ... I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”

Rev 21:7 – “He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”

John 16:33 – “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

What aspect of the world must be conquered to love???

The **Unholy Desire** for what we don't have and the **Unholy Pride** in what we do have.

The unrestrained, controlling, ruling desire.

The “**lust**” of the gutter and the “**lust**” of the gourmet.

The anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Scripture, anti-righteous, Kingdom of Darkness controlled by Satan.

The **heart cravings**, **eye longings**, and **mouth boastings**

of → **2:16!** – “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

We must conquer these to love. We must conquer these points of vulnerability where Satan aims his fiery darts of temptation.

“^{4b}**and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.**”

Faith is the incredible **victory** over the powerful forces around us

This conquering faith teaches us how to love and how to behave. It kindles a holy fire in the heart and it puts a strong yoke around the neck.

Matt 11:29-30 – “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.”

Literally – “the faith of ours” → “A faith?” No! “The faith!”

John finishes with what he started

→ “⁵**And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**”

Turn to: Rom 8:37 – “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” – from the Greek word υπερνικάω –

CONCLUSION

Illustration– It is like the story of the little girl who said that when the devil came knocking with a temptation, she just sends Jesus to the door.

Application – You may go out of here into Monday, and I with you, thinking that evil is all powerful and thinking that temptation is irresistible. → Beloved ... Draw your heart back here.