

## AN OVERCOMING FAITH

1 John 5:1-5

5/16/04

First John teaches that those who truly receive Christ as their Lord and Savior will be changed.

If there is not a change then there is no genuine saving faith.

Genuine salvation should result in a change in the way we live our lives.

Our values and priorities

Our morals and ethics

The way we relate to people

The way we spend our money

The forms of entertainment we indulge in

The fact that we have been spiritually born again into God's family and have the indwelling Holy Spirit will have an affect on the way we live.

There should be a progressive sanctification taking place so that we are becoming more and more godly.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, . . . are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

First John repeatedly teaches that the fingerprints of saving faith are truth, righteousness (obedience) and love.

We will see this morning that these three are inextricably bound together.

Saving faith in the Biblical Jesus will result in a love for God and His children.

Genuine love for God and His people is seen in obedience to God's commandments.

### 1. Those Who Are Born Of God Believe That Jesus Is The Christ. 5:1a

born of God

- cf John 3:7

believe that Jesus is the Christ.

- God come in the flesh cf Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2
- Not an ordinary man but the promised Messiah of the OT
- The sin bearer.
- The King of kings and Lord of lords

Belief- involves our wills as well as our minds.

- John 1:12

Genuine saving faith requires an intellectual and volitional response to Christ.

Those who receive the true Jesus are born of God.

- Any other Jesus will not do.

Those who truly receive Christ as their Lord and Savior will be changed.

- If there is not a change then there is no genuine saving faith.

**2. Those Who Are Born Of God Love The Children Of God. 5:1b-3**

**a. Whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. v. 1b cf 4:7-8, 20-21**

- Genuine faith is seen in our love for God and His children. 4:7-8
  - ♦ The HS who indwells every true Christian is at work to produce this love through their lives.
- Love for God and love for His children are inseparable. 4:20-21
  - ♦ We can't love God and hate other Christians.
  - ♦ But true love involves more than simply not hating, it involves actively ministering to and serving one another.

- ◇ 1 John 3:17
- ◇ Romans 12:10 *Be* devoted to **one another** in brotherly love; give preference to **one another** in honor;
- ◇ Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward **one another**; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.
- ◇ Romans 14:13 let us not judge **one another**
- ◇ Romans 14:19 let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of **one another**.
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 12:25 . . .care for **one another**.
- ◇ Galatians 5:13 serve **one another**.
- ◇ Ephesians 4:2 showing tolerance for **one another** in love,
- ◇ Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to **one another**, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
- ◇ Philippians 2:3 regard **one another** as more important than yourselves;
- ◇ Colossians 3:13 bearing with **one another**
- ◇ Colossians 3:16 admonishing **one another**
- ◇ 1 Thessalonians 4:18 comfort **one another**
- ◇ 1 Thessalonians 5:11 encourage **one another** and build up **one another**
- ◇ 1 Thessalonians 5:13 Live in peace with **one another**.

- ◇ 1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that no **one** repays **another** with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for **one another**
- ◇ Hebrews 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate **one another** to love and good deeds,
- ◇ Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging **one another**;
- ◇ James 4:11 Do not speak against **one another**, brethren.
- ◇ James 5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against **one another**,
- ◇ James 5:16 confess your sins to **one another**, and pray for **one another**
- ◇ 1 Peter 1:22 fervently love **one another** from the heart,
- ◇ 1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to **one another**
- ◇ 1 Peter 4:10 As each **one** has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving **one another**

**b. We know that we love the children of God when we love God and observe His commandments. vv. 2-4**

- What does it mean to love God?
  - ◆ John does not define love as a feeling?
    - ◇ It is not an excitement or a euphoria,
    - ◇ It is not that peaceful and worshipful feeling that we may get around certain types of music

**2b-3a** The love of God involves observing His commandments.

- ◆ John 14:15

- ◇ 1 John 2:3, 5- In fact if we aren't willing to obey Him we aren't saved.
- ◆ John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will **love** him and will disclose Myself to him."
- ◆ The love of God's children also involves keeping His commandments
- ◇ **Romans 13:8-10** Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law. 9 For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.

**3b** God's commandments are not burdensome.

- ◆ They are for our benefit.
- ◆ We have the Holy Spirit in us.

### **3. Those Who Are Born Of God Overcome The World. 5:4-5**

#### **a. But doesn't God love the world? cf John 3:16**

- Though God loves the world of people (John 3:16), he does not love the sin and perverted values found in the world.
- World here refers to the system of values, ethics, motives, fashions, and ideas which are in this world and are contrary to God.
  - ◆ Wrapped up in pride, rebellion, perversion, self-promotion, and self-gratification.
- These ideas and values are promoted by Satan.

♦ cf 5:19

- Worldliness is an attitude where we seek the pleasures and approval of this world more than God.

**1. Worldliness destroys our faith.**

- ♦ **John 5:44** "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and only* God?"

**2. Worldliness drains our love from God.**

- ♦ cf 2:15-16

**3. Worldliness makes us enemies of God.**

- ♦ **James 4:4** You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- We are not to be conformed to the world. Romans 12:2
- We are to love people in this world, but not the system of ideas and values that are in opposition to God.

**b. What is meant by overcome?**

- To conquer or have victory over.
  - ♦ This takes place at two levels.
    - ♦ **v. 4 Positional** (Aorist ptc.) - We are not subject to its destiny.
    - ♦ **v. 5 Personal** ( present active ptc)- We are not enslaved or controlled by the sin and false values of this world. We are not under the power of Satan. (1 John 4:4; Ephesians 6:16; 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7)
- The overcomer demonstrates the reality of saving faith.
- Jesus gives a number of promises to the overcomers.

♦ Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-27

♦ Revelation 3:5, 12, 21

**c. How do we overcome the world? v. 4**

- The victory that has overcome the world is our faith.
  - ♦ The person born of God has been regenerated and has the indwelling Holy Spirit to bring about victory over the sin and temptation that this world offers.
  - ♦ It is our faith in Christ that makes the difference.
- **Romans 8:37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

**d. Who is the person who overcomes the world? v. 5**

- The person who overcomes the world is he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.