

BORN OF GOD

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Nicodemus was a good man and a religious teacher in Israel, but Jesus told him he “*must be born again*” John 3:1-7. In fact, without being born again, none of us can either “see” or “enter” the kingdom of God. This new birth is our entrance into the family of God where we abide in Christ. Peter established that we are “*born again*” of an “*incorruptible seed*” I Peter 1:23 through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:3. This incorruptible seed is the eternal “*Word*” which was “*in the beginning with God...*” John 1:1 and was “*made flesh*” in the person of Jesus Christ. It is the Apostle John, however, who tells us the most concerning how we can know whether we are “*born of God.*” He gives six ways anyone can recognize a child of God. We will look at these one at a time.

1: “*If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him*” I John 2:29.

John gives a qualifying statement along with almost every claim he makes concerning those who are “*born of God.*” In the first statement, “*everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him,*” the qualifying statement is “*If you know that He (God) is righteous.*” The word “*righteous*” does not define what God is, but “*what God is*” defines righteousness. Even a single act of “*the righteousness that God is*” proves a person is “*born of God,*” and Christ is living in them Galatians 2:20. God is the only source of this kind of righteousness.

2: “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...*” I John 3:9.

Certainly John’s words are direct and very clear in their meaning. His qualifying statement follows in the same verse: “*...for His seed remaineth in Him: and he cannot sin because he is born of God.*” The term “*His seed*” speaks of those who are born of God. David foresaw this “*seed,*” saying, “*A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.*” Psalms 22:30-31. The children of God are “*His seed,*” and they “*abide in Christ.*” John said, “*Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not*” I John 3:6. The apostle confirms this again as he concludes his epistle, saying, “*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not...*” I John 5:18. Again, the only qualifying statement that can be given for those who do not sin is they are “*born of God.*”

3: “*...every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God*” I John 4:7.

John’s qualifying statement for this verse is found in the next verse; “*God is love.*” Again, “*love*” does not

define what God is, but “*what God is*” defines love. Human love does not qualify. Paul tells us that if he did not have “*the love that God is,*” he could bestow all his goods to feed the poor, and give his body to be burned, yet it would profit him nothing. I Corinthians 13:3. Human love could cause us to give our life to save a friend, but “*the love that God is*” caused Jesus Christ to give His life to save His enemies Romans 5:7-8, and Stephen to forgive those who stoned him to death. Acts 7:59-60.

4: “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...*”

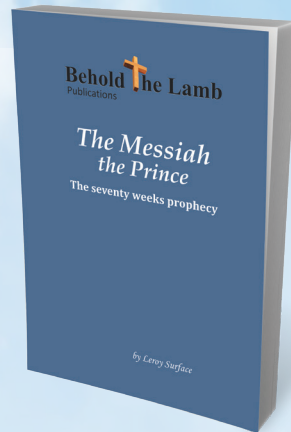
I John 5:1.

God sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel to tell of the coming of “*The Christ.*” into the world. He foretold His mission would be “*...to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness...*” Daniel 9:24. He would be “*cut off, but not for Himself (rejected and crucified)*” Daniel 9:26. We profess to believe “*Jesus is the Christ*” and that He “*made reconciliation for iniquity,*” but do we believe Jesus “*made an end of sins*” through His death on the cross? Consider this carefully. If Christ’s mission was to “*make an end of sins,*” but we do not believe Jesus made “*an end of sins,*” how can we say we believe Jesus IS the Christ? To go through life proclaiming “*We are all sinners*” is to deny that Jesus is “*The Christ*” which God promised would come into the world. Jesus said, “*...if ye believe not that I am he (the Christ), ye shall die in your sins.*” John 8:24.

5: “*For whatsoever (whosoever) is born of God overcometh the world...*” I John 5:4.

The word “*whatsoever*” was translated from the Greek word “*pas,*” which was translated “*whosoever*” in verse one. The “*qualifying statement*” for those who “*overcome the world*” is in this same verse; they are “*born of God.*” The definition of “*pas*” is “*all, any, every, the whole*” (Strong’s Greek Dictionary). There can be no exceptions; everyone who is “*born of God, overcometh the world.*”

While many in the modern church are offended by these statements made by the apostle John, he actually wrote these things to confirm those who are born of God. He said “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...*” I John 5:13. Again he says, “*These things write we unto you, that (in order that) your joy may be full*” I John 1:4. If we believe the things John wrote in his epistle, we will overflow with the joy of “*knowing Christ.*”



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