

**I. Introduction.**

**II. God is the cause of your new birth. v. 1a**

**A. What is the new birth?**

**B. Which comes first: your faith or the new birth?**

The question is not so much one of chronology, as cause and effect.

**C. The new birth precedes faith. 3:9 4:7 5:4**

1. John literally says: *Whoever believes* (present tense) *Jesus is the Christ, has been born* (perfect tense: past action with ongoing results) from God.

2. We were dead in sin and unable to believe. Eph. 2:1-3 I Cor. 2:14 12:3 Ro. 8:7-8

3. The new birth is not caused by the human will, but is a sovereign act of God.

John 1:12-13 3:3-8 11:43 James 1:18 I Pet. 1:23 Eph. 2:4-6

4. Faith itself is a gift of God. Ephesians 2:8-9 Acts 16:14 Mt. 16:17 John 6:37,44

**D. We invite men to believe, realizing that we are speaking to the spiritually dead and that God must give them life. Ro. 10:17 Jo. 5:25 10:27 Js. 1:18 I Pe. 1:23 I Co. 1:18,21**

**III. The new birth transforms your life in three ways. v. 1-3a**

**A. Those who are born of God believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. v. 1a,5b 3:23**

1. Faith in Christ is the only way to enter into fellowship with God. John 10:1-9 14:6

2. What does it mean to believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? 1:1-3,7 2:2 3:16

3. Faith is from the heart and is confessed with the mouth. 4:15

4. If you believe, it proves you are born of God. I Cor. 2:14,10,12 1:18

**B. Those who are born of God love His children. v. 1b 3:14f,17-19 4:20**

1. When you dearly love someone, his children are precious to you.

2. We who love God love those who have been born of God.

3. Faith and love are inseparable. Eph. 1:15-16 Col. 1:3-4 I Th. 1:3 I Pet. 1:8 Js. 2:14f

4. If you love God's people it is because you are born again.

**C. We who are born of God love God and keep His commandments. v. 1b, 2-3a 2:3,29**

3:9 John 14:15,21 15:10 Luke 6:46-49

1. Love for God and love for men are inseparable. 3:14-15,17-19 4:20

2. True love for men is rooted and grounded in obedient love for God.

3. We show we love God by keeping His commandments. John 14:15,21

4. Loving obedience is a characteristic of all who have been born of God. 3:9 2:3

**IV. The new birth brings you victory over the world. v. 3b-5**

**A. The world sees God's commandments as burdensome. v. 3b**

1. The natural man sees God's rules as an unreasonable constraint on his freedom.

2. Some professing Christians don't like hearing about God's law.

3. We lacked the ability to keep God's law. Acts 15:10

- B. Your attitude towards God's law has been transformed. v. 3b**
- 1. Christ has removed the burden of your guilt by His blood. 1:7 2:1-2 4:10**
  - 2. Your new nature delights in what you once hated. Psalm 119:16,18,47-48,72,97, 103-105, 169-176 Ps. 19:7-10**
  - 3. You trust that God's way is always the best way! Rom. 12:2**
  - 4. You enjoy serving God Whom you love. Mt. 11:30 Gen. 29:20**
  - 5. You have a new ability to keep God's law. I Cor. 10:13 Phil. 4:13**
- C. You have overcome the world. v. 4-5 4:4 Ro. 8:37 12:21**
- 1. This is good news for people living in troubled times.**
  - 2. You share in Christ's past victory, by faith. v. 4 John 16:33 Rev. 5:5 12:11**
  - 3. You who believe continue to overcome sin and worldliness. v. 5 Rev. 3:21**
  - 4. In what sense have we overcome the world? 2:15-17,22 4:4**
  - 5. Take courage! You can overcome worldliness. I Cor. 10:13 Phil. 4:13**
  - 6. Faith in Christ is the key to victory. Prov. 18:10**
  - 7. Keep fighting. Rom. 8:37-39**
  - 8. God, who gave us the new birth receives all the glory in our victory.**

**V. Concluding applications.**

I Cor. 15:57

**Discussion questions**

- 1. What does it mean to be born again?**
- 2. What is the cause of the new birth?**
- 3. What are the effects of the new birth?**
- 4. According to verse 1, why do we love God's children?**
- 5. Is John contradicting his earlier statements (4:20) when he says we know we love God's children when we love God?**
- 6. Why are God's commandments burdensome to most people?**
- 7. Why aren't God's commandments burdensome to those who have been born again?**
- 8. In what sense have we overcome the world?**
- 9. What role does faith play in our victory?**
- 10. Have you been born again?**