

## 1st John

### Lesson 14 “Born of God”

I. Introduction - Over the last year, we have studied one of the largest and most influential churches in the first century, which was the church in Ephesus.

A. The Apostle Paul started this work and then turned the church over to his protégé Timothy. After Paul’s death, John became the apostolic authority to this church and the churches in Asia Minor and did a lot of ministry in Ephesus.

B. *1 John* is a follow up to *Ephesians*, *1st* and *2nd Timothy* which were written to the church in Ephesus. This letter was written in Ephesus and went to this church and other churches in this region.

1. John wrote to combat the first heresy in the early church, Gnosticism.
2. Gnosticism taught a dualism (2 gods - a higher level god who was distant and removed and a lesser god (The demiurge) who created the world and everything in it. Gnostics taught all matter was evil and so it was impossible to do good because everything created was inherently evil, therefore why try to do good?
3. Gnostics also taught Jesus didn’t come in the flesh because if He did, He would have been evil since all matter is evil.
4. Taught Jesus didn’t come to save us from our sins, but from our ignorance.
5. The gnostics didn’t focus their teaching on the scriptures, but rather a mystical *gnosis* (knowledge). This was secret knowledge and for the select few.
6. All of these teachings contradict the message of the gospel and discipleship. Jesus came in the flesh to save us from our sins and reveal the father. God created the world in His image and it is good. Jesus came to transform us and the world back into the original image. Jesus’s teachings weren’t secret, but declared plainly in the scriptures and the church was told to share and disciple the world.

C. In *1 John 5*, John wrote about the strongest thing that countered the gnostic heresy. He wrote that we can be born of God. Tonight, we are going to explore how that happens and what that means.

## II. Born of God

### A. **1 John 5:1-13**

1. *Verse 1* Whoever believes Jesus is born of God, is also born of God - *Verse 4*. How was Jesus born of God? **Luke 1:35-38** *be it to me according to your word (rhema)*. God then put His seed in Mary’s womb.

- a. How are we born of God? **John 3:3** born again. **ánōthen**, - **from G507; from above** - when this happens God puts His spiritual seed inside of us (get a new spirit) and we get a new nature.
  - b. **John 3:4-5** Nicodemus doesn't understand because he's trying to relate in the natural instead of in the spirit. Must be born of water and spirit.
2. **Verse 2-3** When we get born of God, we get a new nature and His commands aren't burdensome.
3. **Verse 4-5** When we get born again, we become a world overcomer. The key to **walk in that reality** is to believe who we are in Christ and what the word says about us. **World over-comers believe on the Son of God.**
5. **Verses 6-10** The Holy Spirit bears witness of the truth that we are born of God.
  - a. **Verse 6** John makes it clear that the Jesus he speaks of is not the Gnostic, "phantom" Jesus who was so holy that He had nothing to do with this world. The Jesus we believe on is the Jesus who came by water and the blood and part of a real, material, flesh-and-blood earth.
  - b. The Father, word (logos), and spirit in heaven bear witness to this.
  - c. The Spirit, water, and blood agree on earth. Theologically this is a bit of a mystery, but the big idea is the spirit and Jesus are in agreement.
  - d. The same way the three in heaven and earth witness of the reality of Jesus, when we believe we get a witness (the spirit testifies within us) that we are born of God (just like Jesus). **Those who don't believe in the reality of Jesus being who He said He was are calling God a liar.**
6. **Verses 11-12** God's testimony is He has given us eternal life, the **ζωή** (life in the fullest since - as God has it) as this life was in His son, Jesus (because we are born of God, we have the God kind of life!
7. **Verse 13** John closes this portion of the letter saying He wanted us to know we have the life of God because we are born of God. It isn't just a feeling. It is a practical reality we can know! **Also, we start in faith, but we must continue in faith!**

III. Conclusion - Whatsoever has been born of God is already a world overcomer! The question is do we believe it? Believing what the word says about us and the promises is the key to overcoming the world!

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Sign Off for Online Audience

#### IV. Discussion Questions

1. What impacted you the most from this teaching?
2. Nicodemus got confused because he tried to make spiritual things natural and natural things spiritual. Has this ever happened to you? How do we guard against doing this?

3. Tell about a time when God spoke a promise to you in a difficult situation and then you believed the promise and overcame.
4. **1 John 5:10** says we have this witness within ourselves because we believe on the Son of God. This is how we know God is speaking to us. Describe what the witness of God sounds like in your heart.
5. Name one aspect of the **zōē** life of God you would like to experience in a greater measure. What scriptures can you meditate so you can do it?