

1 John 5:1-5 In the world and not of it

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Let's begin with a word of prayer.

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This morning we are back in our series on 1 John having taken a side road over the last two weeks when we were looking at judgement and rewards which resulted as we came across the verse in 1 John 4:17 where John says that we can have confidence or boldness at the judgement.

The reason we can have this confidence is that we have passed from death into life and while we are here on this earth God has prepared in advance good works for us to do and that we simply need to have open ears, open eyes, and above all open hearts to see these good works and to walk into them.

And as we humbly go about doing these good works and not making a big song and dance about them, we are storing up for ourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust will not destroy or where thieves will break in and steal.

I also mentioned that even our current occupations or vocations have been designed as a means of doing good works and that we can work at them as though we were working heartily for God and not man.

Have any of you had an opportunity to be used by God in any good works over the past week?

Now let's turn to 1 John 5

1 John 5:1-5

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:1-5

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

Once again John continues to make a distinction between those who know God by believing that Jesus is the Christ and those who merely profess knowledge of him.

And John then goes on to show us just one of the many ways or proofs if you like, that show us that we have been born of God.

Q. Can anyone find what proof John is referring to in this verse?

A. We love WHOEVER has been born of him.

This means that our Christianity needs to take on a global perspective as well as our local focus.

One of the hallmarks of the Christian faith is and should be that wherever we find ourselves anywhere in the world that we should be able to come together with God's people and love them as well as be loved by them.

We see this very clearly in the New Testament in the care that the churches had for each other and the apostolic teams providing a dynamic link between the churches.

Paul often knew the believers he was writing to but there were times when he didn't personally know them, but this did not stop him writing letters that are full of doctrine, warmth and practical encouragement for holy living.

He could write these letters in such a way because he knew that he, they and we share a common faith and a common fellowship.

Illustration: Our trip to England last year and this week Vinita's prophetic word

Fellowship is a unique thing in the world and we can often downplay it. It is so much more than just friendship that we get through association with someone, such as we have in our work situations or at school.

It has more to do with a family setting than it has to do with functional relationships, that if you take away the function then often the friendship also disappears.

Whoever loves God loves those who have been born of God.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Now John gives us another proof that our faith is real and living.

And it is that we love God by keeping and obeying his commandments.

And his commandments are not burdensome. Why?

Because we have been born of God and have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and therefore we have all the necessary means to keep these commandments.

I am aware that often as Christians we face a tension in this area because we believe that we are under God's grace and no longer under his law - which is true, but we must remember that Jesus did not come to abolish God's law but to fulfil it and when we abide in him he continues to fulfil God's law in us and through us.

Grace and Law are complimentary for the Christian. Because of God's grace we can fulfil God's law.

If we just had law we would have no hope and if we just had grace we would have no context for truly understanding God's love.

Law brings the knowledge of sin and God's grace applied to our lives brings the knowledge that Jesus took our sin so that we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

And as we finish off this morning John gives us one more proof that we belong to God.

He says that those born of God overcome the world and the thing that overcomes the world is our faith.

Why do we need to overcome the world?

1 John 5:19

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the world.

17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

We need to overcome the world because:

1. The whole world lies in the power of the evil one
2. God says so. We should not love the world or the things of the world
3. The desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes and the pride in possessions is not from God but is from the world.
The world is living selfishly for its own glory while we believers are called to live selflessly for God's glory.
4. The world is passing away along with these desires and we don't want to pass away with it.

Without faith we are just running with the world, imitating its beliefs, its desires and its values.

But just because we believe doesn't mean we don't need to fight to overcome the world and its desires and simply opting out of involvement in the world won't fix it either.

There is a battle in the world that is continually raging against God and seeks at every turn to undermine our faith in Jesus. The world has an agenda against us. It doesn't like us. This is not our home. We are strangers here. We are just passing through and if the devil can't completely knock us out he will do all he can to make us ineffective.

We need to submit to God and resist the devil.

So, let's just to recap before we finish off with Jesus' prayer for us that tie all of this together.

We know we have been born of God by:

1. Loving whoever has been born of God
2. By keeping his commandments and his commandments are not burdensome
3. By overcoming the world and not being overcome by it

John 17:1-26

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

6 "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.

8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Let's pray.