

To Be Born Again

John 3:1-5

Nicodemus Comes to Jesus

- What do we know about Nicodemus?
 - His sincerity is seen in this passage.
 - He called for a fair hearing. ***John 7:50-51***
 - He helped prepared Jesus' body for burial. ***John 19:38-42***

One Must Be Born Again

- What does it mean? (vs 3)
 - A regeneration. *Titus 3:5*
 - A new creation. *2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15*
 - A new man. *Eph 4:22-24*

One Must Be Born Again

- What does it mean? (vs 3)
 - There is a two-step process to being born again.
 - A conviction to change, to turn away from one's sinful past.
 - Appeal to God for a clean and pure consequence, through the washing away of one's sins. **1 Pet 3:21**

The Kingdom of God

- What does it mean? (vs 3)
 - The kingdom that was “at hand.”
Mark 9:1
 - It was this kingdom over which Jesus would reign. ***Acts 2:32-36; 1 Cor 15:24-25***

Nicodemus was Puzzled

- How can these things be? (vs 4)
- Can a man re-enter his mother's womb?

Born of the Water

- Has no connection with the physical birth. (vs 5)

Born of the Water

- Has its connections to water baptism.
 - Jesus' disciples as well as John and his disciples baptized people in water. ***John 3:22-23; 4:1-2***
 - The example to show Jesus taught water baptism is Philip and the man from Ethiopia. ***Acts 8:26-40***

Born of the Spirit

- The Spirit of the Lord has a role in our new birth. (vs 5)
 - Paul refers to the “renewing of the Holy Spirit.” ***Titus 3:5-7***
 - Paul refers to “salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” ***2 Thess 2:13***

Born of the Spirit

- The Spirit of the Lord has a role in our new birth. (vs 5)
 - *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* (vs 6-8)
 - It is clear Jesus is speaking of a spiritual "born again" when he refers to being born of the water and the Spirit.

How Can These Things Be?

- Nicodemus should have been familiar with the workings of the Holy Spirit as well as the power of God. (vs 10)
- Jesus had already spoken what He knew and had seen, but the people did not receive it. (vs 11)

How Can These Things Be?

- Jesus explains that the Son of Man, who came from heaven must be "*lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*" (vs 13-15; cf. 8:28; 12:32)

Whoever Believes

- Jesus explains God's love. (vs 16)
- Jesus explains how belief in the son of God can save the world. (vs 17; 12:46-48)
- The Son of Man is the Son of God. (vs 16-17)

Whoever Believes

- Just as belief can save, unbelief will condemn. (vs 18)
- The condemnation: The Light came into the world and men rejected the Light because they loved darkness rather than light. (vs 19)

Whoever Believes

- The person who chooses to walk in evil deeds will always hate the Light because the Light exposes their evil deeds. (vs 20)
- The person who chooses to walk in the Light will not be ashamed of their works being done in God. (vs 21)