

You Must Be Born Again 1

Proverbs 20:6 - Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?

John 3:1-8 – 1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

None of Us is Good Enough

- Psalm 14:3 - They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.
 - “turned aside” = *sur* = to leave, to take off, to set aside...
 - “corrupt” = *alach* = tainted... used of milk turning sour
 - “there is none who does good, not even one” = lit. exactly what it says.
- Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - “fall short” = *hustereo* = to be lacking in something, to be deficient

Our Problem Can't Be Solved By The Law Alone

- Romans 7:5 - For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.
- Romans 7:7-8 – 7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” 8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.
- Romans 7:13 - Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.
 - Sin Corrupts God's Commands in 2 Different Ways
 - We hear a command and sin in us wants to push the envelope, to rebel
 - We follow His commands and sin in us creates spiritual pride, hypocrisy, religiosity, etc.
- Romans 7:14 – For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

Even When We Try to Do Good, We Can't

- Romans 7:15 – For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
- Romans 7:18-19 - 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.
- Romans 7:21-25 - 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

The Problem... and the Solution

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 – And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
 - “washed” = *apolouó* = 2 words (to wash + away)
 - “sanctified” = lit. “to be made holy”
 - “justified” = lit. “to be made righteous and declared as such”
- Colossians 1:21-22 - 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him
 - “reconciled” = *apokatallassó* = Three aspects to this word...
 - 1) Two things that are completely at odds to each other are brought together decisively
 - 2) The situation has so completely changed that it’s not at all what it was before
 - 3) The old situation is totally removed, taken away entirely

How Do We Get the Change We Need?

- John 3:3 – Jesus answered [Nicodemus], “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- John 1:12-13 - 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - Believe in Jesus as the Son of God
 - Receive Him into your life
 - Then you have the right to become a child of God