

v1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. v2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. v3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, v4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. v5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

*v6 This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. v7 For there are three that testify: v8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. v9 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. v10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. v11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. v12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. **1 John 5:1-12***

Christianity has from its foundation being challenged by the world to PROVE that it is the ULTIMATE REVELATION OF GOD.

There has been an INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE: From the time of Cerinthus through atheists like Bertrand Russell or Friedrich Nietzsche, till the present attack by numerous modern atheists like Richard Dawkins, Peter Higgs or Stephen Fry, INTELLECTUALS have questioned the existence of God, and particularly the PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

There has been a MORAL CHALLENGE: As societies become more and more corrupt, and adopt practices that oppose the Biblical Standard, so more and more people turn their back on Christianity, and even aggressively attack Christians, when you challenge their moral choices.

There has been a PHYSICAL CHALLENGE: The growth of PERSECUTION, even in countries where there is a large Christian population is evident. E.g. India and Nigeria.

Today I want to focus on:

THE ULTIMATE PROOF OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

I FIRSTLY, in this passage we have:

The ULTIMATE PROOF that JESUS is THE CHRIST.

1 John 5 v1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ ... v6 This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. v7 For there are three that testify: v8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. v9 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

1. JESUS IS THE CHRIST because of the VIRGIN BIRTH. Verse 6 says, *This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. **He did not come by water only.***

*John 3:1-6 v1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. v2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." v3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." v4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. **"Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"** v5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God **unless he is born of water** and the Spirit. v6 **Flesh gives birth to flesh**, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

The coming of Jesus to earth was no ordinary event. It was both a NATURAL and SUPERNATURAL event. Many who deny the truth that Jesus is the Christ also deny the truth of the VIRGIN BIRTH. The idea that GOD COULD COME DOWN TO EARTH is way to difficult for some to accept. As long as "god" is something/one out there, then we don't need to live up to the standard that JESUS SET AS A MAN.

2. JESUS IS THE CHRIST because of the TESTIMONY OF THE FATHER AT HIS BAPTISM. Verse 6 says, *This is the one **who came by water and blood.***

Here John is connecting the START and ENDING of the MINISTRY OF JESUS. Why is the BAPTISM of Jesus so important.

*Matthew 3:16-17 **As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.** At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. v17 **And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."***

*Matthew 17:1-5 v1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. v2 **There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.** v3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. v4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." v5 **While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"***

*2 Peter 1:16-18 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. v17 **For he received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."** v18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

3. JESUS IS THE CHRIST because of the VICTORY OF THE CROSS. Verse 6 says, *This is the one who came by water and blood.*

The END of the MINISTRY OF JESUS on earth was HIS DEATH ON A CROSS. The ultimate sign of his having died is found in:

*John 19:33-34 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. v34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, **bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.***

Those that deny that Jesus is the Christ also deny his death. Many claimed that Jesus just fainted of the Cross and was later revived. (Swoon Theory) The evidence of the WATER and BLOOD point to a medical condition that occurs after the death of a person who was badly beaten. The red blood cells coagulate into one and the white plasma also coagulate.

1 Corinthians 15:12-14 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? v13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. v14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

THE REALITY OF HIS DEATH makes HIS RESURRECTION MORE GLORIOUS.

4. JESUS IS THE CHRIST because of the TESTIMONY OF THE SPIRIT.

Verse 6 says, *This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. **And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.** v7 **For there are three that testify: v8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.***

Here John is referring to the work of the SPIRIT in two ways.

1. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT WHILE JESUS WAS ON EARTH.

*Matthew 3:16-17 **As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.** v17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

2. THE ONGOING WORK OF THE SPIRIT FROM PENTECOST.

John 15:26 "When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 5:32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

II SECONDLY, in this passage we have: The ULTIMATE PROOF that WE BELONG TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST.

1 John 5 v1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. v2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. v3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, v4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. v5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

v10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. v11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. v12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1. WE BELONG TO GOD because WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST

Verse 1 says, *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*

The Apostle Paul makes this point in:

Romans 10:9-13 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. v10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. v11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." v12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, v13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

You cannot be saved by your own merit:

Romans 10:1-4 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. v2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. v3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. v4 Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

2. WE BELONG TO GOD because WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR HIM BY LOVING OTHERS

Verse 1 says, *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and **everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.***

John made the point earlier in the book when he wrote in:

1 John 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

3. WE BELONG TO GOD because WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS BY LOVING AND OBEYING GOD

Verse 2-3 says, *v2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. v3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,*

John made the point earlier in the book when he wrote in:

*1 John 2:3-6 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. v4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. v5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: v6 **Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.***

4. WE BELONG TO GOD because WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO OVERCOME THE WORLD

Verse 4-5 says, *v4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. v5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

The Apostle Paul spoke of our inability to overcome sin in:

Romans 7:14-21 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. v15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. v16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. v17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. v18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. v19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. v20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. v21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

So, EVERY TIME YOU SAY NO TO TEMPTATION IT IS PROOF THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS

5. WE BELONG TO GOD because WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Verse 10-12 says, *v10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. v11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. v12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

WE ALREADY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. JESUS SAID

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.