

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
MARKS OF A BELIEVER
1 JOHN 5:1-5

Introduction

If I were to ask the question: “*Are you sure that you have been born physically?*”, we would think that to be a foolish question. Yet there are many people who are not sure that they have been born spiritually.

In John 3:5-6, the Pharisee Nicodemus was confused about being born again. [5] *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

We’ll receive the Lord’s Supper this evening...and we need to begin preparing our hearts...certainly we need to have the assurance of our relationship with the Lord nailed down...we need to KNOW that we are saved...and once we know, we need to be sure we are in RIGHT relationship with Him.

There are certain characteristics that mark those that are of the same family. We call them family traits. Many times physical similarities, perhaps color of eyes, hair, size of frame, nose, hands or feet. Sometimes the characteristics are not physical and not so readily detectable.

In like manner, **those of us who have been born again by the Spirit of God into the family of God, share characteristics that mark us or distinguish us from the world!**

The Bible teaches that the Born Again experience is a definite thing and that we can know for a certainty that we are a child of God. So, let us look at some of these traits that mark us children of God:

I. THE MARK OF LOVE FOR GOD AND GOD’S CHILDREN!

(Vs. 1)

There are several things stated here about the child of God:

A. There Is The Mark Of Our Belief!

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God..”

(Elaborate on this!)

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
MARKS OF A BELIEVER
1 JOHN 5:1-5

There Is The Mark Of Our Belief!

B. There Is The Mark Of Our Love For God!

“...and every one that loveth him that begat...”

This assumes that which should be obvious.

We love the one Who first loved us!

In **1 John 4:19** the Bible says, “*We love Him because He first loved us!*”

Just as it is natural for a baby to love its parents, it is natural for a child of God to love his Heavenly Father!

The more we know about the Father and His love for us, the more we will love Him! We come to know Him through His Word. We’ll come to love Him more and more, and our desire will be to be like Him!

C. There Is The Mark Of Our Love for the Family Of God!

“...and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”

Being born again means that we are born into a family—The Family of God! It is a **natural thing** for family members to love one another! There actually is a special bond that comes (or should come) from being brothers and sisters in the flesh! In the same way, brothers and sisters in Christ share a common bond!

The bond of the Blood of Christ!

The bond of a common Father (Our Heavenly Father)!

The bond of being indwelt by the same Spirit of God!

This is one of the precious truths about being a Christian.

How is that love going to behave?

1 Corinthians 12:26– “And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
MARKS OF A BELIEVER
1 JOHN 5:1-5

This is the way love behaves itself toward the members of the family of God. Is this love in your heart for the family of God?

e.g. Think about the experience of Paul and Silas with the Philippian jailor. The jailor had treated them roughly. *Acts 16:23-24* – “23 ...they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely. 24Who, having received such a charge, **thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.**

Then when he saw their faith, and the earthquake shook him up, he asked them how to be saved...awkward!
...but after he was born again, the Bible says he washed their stripes, he brought them to his house, he put a meal on the table for them and he rejoiced with them!
Quite a change, wouldn't you say?

If you are truly born again, the marks of love for God and love for the brethren will be evident in your life.

If you've truly been saved, you'll come to Church...not out of duty...you'll WANT to be here! You'll love what Christ loves [the Church]!

If you've got any doubt at all, you need to investigate it. And don't just start coming to Church so you can feel saved...rather, make sure that you are saved for certain and you'll WANT to come to Church and meet with God and your spiritual family!

Verse 2-3 bring us to the next thing...it says **“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments.3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”**

So, **THERE IS THE MARK OF LOVE FOR GOD AND GOD'S CHILDREN!**

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
MARKS OF A BELIEVER
1 JOHN 5:1-5

II. THE MARK OF LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS COMMANDMENTS! (vv. 2-3)

Two times in these verses we are told that **the children of God love Him and keep His commandments.**

If You Claim To Be A Child Of God, Let Me Ask This, Do You Have A Desire To Obey God? If not, there is something wrong!

In the Old Testament people were forced to keep the law as a moral responsibility. The Pharisees professed to love the law and they kept it outwardly, but there was no joy and no peace.

They did it as a duty. But, when you are born into God's family, doing God's law becomes your desire!

It is love that turns duty into desire! You WANT to do right!

e.g. A young lady got a job typing manuscripts for an author...it was her main duty and at first it was just a mundane job. Then she fell in love with the author and they got married. What had previously been a mundane duty now became the desire of her heart. She desired to please the one she loved.

That is what happens when we are born again. When the Bible says, *“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain...”* That is not just to be a duty for us! It is to be the desire of our heart not to take His name in vain! When we fail it ought to grieve us that we hurt the One we love, the One Who loves us, by doing so!

When Jesus comes into your life and you are born into God's family, the duty of the law becomes a deep desire of your heart. It brings a blessedness, it brings a joy to delight in His law!

Psalm 1:1-2 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

**EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
MARKS OF A BELIEVER
1 JOHN 5:1-5**

Some say they can't understand the Bible. But when you fall in love with the Author and get saved, His Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life and He gives you the understanding and wisdom you need!

When your desire changes, everything changes! If you desire to do right God will make it work out, and make it a delight!

Jesus said in *Matthew 23:3* that the Pharisees made religion a burden. However, Jesus came to teach us that through the new birth it becomes a joy [not grievous] to keep the commandments of God. God's commandments are not designed to rob us of joy and happiness! His commandments are there to help us live a blessed life!

e.g. As a children we were told not to touch hot surfaces such as the oven or stove or the iron or the wood stove or gas heaters we used for heating. Now understand that command came from loving parents who were concerned for us and didn't want us to be scarred for life with burn marks!

Likewise, the commandments of God come from a loving, Heavenly Father who knows what is best for His children. He knows that sin will leave scars in our life and our Heavenly Father doesn't want that for us! So He has given us commandments to keep us from being scarred for life!

*THE MARK OF LOVE FOR GOD AND GOD'S CHILDREN...
THE MARK OF LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS COMMANDMENTS!*

III. THE MARK OF OVERCOMING THE WORLD! (Vs. 4-5)

Three times in these verses John uses the word "**overcometh.**"

That is to let us know that though there is a real conflict going on, *1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:* (them being the spirits of antichrists that are in the world) because *greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

**EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
MARKS OF A BELIEVER
1 JOHN 5:1-5**

There is a war that is constantly raging between the forces of light and the forces of darkness.

Ephesians 6:10-13 "10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Wrestling is a struggle—and the struggle is always with us—but we have strength for the struggle from the Spirit of God that lives within us!

Believers fight three enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil. John writes these words to inform the children of God that everything necessary for victory has already been given to us.

A. There Was The Initial Conquest of Christ!

Man cannot overcome Satan on his own. Adam and Eve learned this, they met Satan in their own strength and were conquered.

Jesus Christ came into this world and met Satan head on as was predicted in:

Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Satan tempted Christ with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life in Matthew 4. And Jesus met those temptations head on with the Word of God. "**It is written...**"

Every temptation possible was hurled at the Son of God.

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
MARKS OF A BELIEVER
1 JOHN 5:1-5

*Hebrews 4:15-16 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; **but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.***

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Finally, the devil rolled out his biggest weapon, death. But when the dust had cleared and Satan had done his worst, the tomb was empty, Christ had arose and victory is ours!

1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Hebrews 7:25-26 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

There Was The Initial Conquest of Christ!

B. There Is The Continual Conquest of Christ!

This means that daily victory over temptations and anxieties are ours, if we appropriate it!

In **Romans 8:37**, Paul uses a word to describe our victory...he says there that, *“we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”*

Then in **1 Corinthians 15:57**, Scripture says, *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Back to v. 4 in our text [read]

We have victory as we appropriate the victory of Jesus.

Notice that it is not by feelings or by fighting but by FAITH!

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
MARKS OF A BELIEVER
1 JOHN 5:1-5

If you're truly saved you have access to this victory.

We don't all appropriate it at all times, but we should!

Conclusion

I've never been to west Texas, but from what I hear it is a wasteland, flat, hot, and the little bit of civilization has to put up w/ a lot!

There was a very poor man down in West Texas in the 1930s who barely made a living on a very poor sheep farm around Odessa and Midland. His name was E. L. Yates and he was so poor that he was contemplating bankruptcy and allowing the bank to repossess his farm. He was constantly worrying about how he could pay his bills and feed his family.

One day a survey crew from an oil company came to him and asked for permission to drill for oil on his property. The contract stated that he was to receive every eighth barrel if any oil was found. At 1,115 feet they hit a gusher. The well produced 80,000 barrels of oil a day! Wells soon followed that could produce twice that capacity. Even thirty years later government surveys showed wells with a capacity for 125,000 barrels a day. It proved to be one of the richest veins of oil ever found on the North American continent.

Mr. Yates owned it all! When he purchased the land the oil came with it. During all the years of his poverty he was rich and didn't know it. Years passed before Mr Yates possessed what he owned and enjoyed the privileges of ownership.

It is the privilege of every Christian to live in victory every day...Sundays and all the days in-between! It is by faith that we should claim what is ours. Are you living every day in His power and victory?

There are five basic categories of people:

- 1) Those who know they aren't saved. Acts 26:28
- 2) Those who think they are saved, but aren't. Matthew 7:21-23
- 3) Those we think are saved, but aren't. 1 John 2:18-19/Tares of Mt. 13
- 4) Those who are saved, but don't act like it. I Cor. 3:1-3
- 5) Those who are saved, and with Christ's help live it. I Jn. 5:1-5

Which category are you in? Vs. 13 Do you know tonight? If not, you can!