

The New Birth

(John 3:1-5)

- Introduction:
1. The Bible states that the process of becoming a Christian is a birth.
 2. Nicodemus misunderstood the teaching of Jesus, thinking that Jesus spoke of a literal physical birth.
 3. Though this is not what Jesus had in mind, there are some similarities between the new birth and physical birth.

I. An Examination of John 3:1-5

A. Verse One.

1. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews.
2. Member of the Sanhedrin court (John 7:50).

B. Verse Two.

1. Came to Jesus by night.
2. Must not judge his reason for coming by night.
3. He was open minded enough to recognized that Jesus was a teacher from God.

C. Verse Three.

1. Jesus recognizes the honesty in this man, so he begins to teach him about salvation.
2. Jesus teaches that one must be born anew if he is to see the kingdom of God.

D. Verse Four

1. Though Nicodemus was a teacher of the Law, he did not understand how this was to be accomplished.
2. Nicodemus thought that Jesus was speaking of a physical birth.

E. Verse Five.

1. Jesus goes ahead and explains this new birth.
2. Jesus states that this is not a physical birth.
3. Jesus explains that the new birth consists of water and the Spirit.
4. Water has reference to baptism.
 - a. (Romans 6:4) Rise in newness of life.
 - b. (Titus 3:5) A washing of regeneration.
5. The Spirit is also involved in this new birth.
 - a. (John 16:8) He convicts the world of sin.
6. One must undergo this process to become a child of God.
7. Therefore, a "born again Christian " is a redundance, for that is the only kind of Christian there is.

II. Comparisons Between Physical Birth And The New Birth

A. There is emotion involved in a birth.

1. Physical birth:
 - a. joy.
 - b. pride.

- c. happiness.
 - d. relief.
 - 2. New Birth:
 - a. There must also be emotions involved.
 - b. We were made in God's image, and God is a God of emotion.
 - c. God does feel emotions when a child is added to his family.
 - 1. Joy and happiness (Luke 15:7, 10).
 - 2. Pride (Job 1:8).
 - 3. Relief (II Peter 3:9).
- B. The Child Born Is Dependent Upon Its Parents.
- 1. Physical Birth:
 - a. A new born child is completely dependent upon its parents for everything.
 - b. They are not born, ready to take on the world by themselves.
 - c. They need protection, guidance, and love.
 - 2. New Birth:
 - a. A child of God also need to realized his dependence upon God.
 - b. We are not able to withstand the Devil all on our own.
 - c. We need God's strength and help in overcoming Satan (I John 4:4).
 - d. Many Christians fail because they fail to depend upon God.
 - 1. Try to live the Christian life and are not always able to do it.
 - 2. Thus, they get discouraged and give up.
 - 3. But dependence upon God sees us through (I John 1:7).
- C. A Child Is Born Into A Family
- 1. Physical Birth:
 - a. Brothers and Sisters provide additional love and strength.
 - b. They provide friendship and encouragement.
 - 2. New Birth:
 - a. When we are born into the family of God, we are surrounded with brothers and sisters.
 - b. This relationship provides mutual strength and encouragement (Romans 14:19).
 - c. It means one will always have a friend to lean upon (Romans 12:15).
 - d. If there was nothing more to Christianity than having a family, it would be enough.
- D. Birth Begins A Life Of Love.
- 1. Physical Birth:
 - a. When a child is young, it may obey and show respect for its parents out of fear or duty.
 - b. But the older a child gets, his respect for his parents is based upon love.
 - 2. New Birth:
 - a. When one first becomes a child of God, he may obey and show respect of God's laws out of love.
 - b. A way to determine maturity is to ask yourself how much service

is promoted by love rather than obligation.

- Conclusion:
1. The new birth is similar in many ways to the physical birth.
 2. To become a part of God's family, one must be born again.
 3. This involved obedience to the Spirit and being baptized for the remission of sins.
 4. Invitation.