

“You Must Be Born Again”

John 3:1-15

How can one know such a renovation when he is old?
How is such a radical change even possible?

Our Lord presses upon Nicodemus the necessity of the new birth.

1. Nicodemus’ Religious Credentials

vv. 1-2

(1) A Jew

- a member of the visible church

“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus,
a ruler of the Jews.”

(2) A Pharisee

- very serious about spiritual things – the pursuit of righteousness

(3) A ruler of the Jews

- a member of the ruling body of Israel, the Sanhedrin.
- very respected – a man of prominence

(4) A teacher of the Jews (v. 10) “the teacher of Israel”

- very gifted
- very well-versed in the Scriptures

(5) Shows an earnest interest in Jesus

- seeking a private interview with Jesus
- his apparent fear of man
- his conviction concerning Jesus

“This man came to Jesus by night”
“we know that you are a teacher come from
for no one can do these signs that you do
unless God is with him.”

God;

2. Nicodemus’ True Need: To Be Born Again!

vv. 3-8

The Absolute Necessity of the New Birth

(1) It is the starting point of true spiritual life

“Most assuredly, I say to you,
unless one is born again,
he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

(2) It is indeed a birth!

- man cannot effect it - a birth *from above* – God acts upon man and brings it about
- the beginning of a new life – a life granted from above

Nicodemus’ response (v.4):

“How can a man be born when he is old?”

(3) It is a work which involves an inward, radical cleansing of the whole being

- cf. Ezek. 36

“unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

(4) It is a work which is wrought by the Spirit of God

It cannot proceed from man at all.
It cannot originate in man

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh.
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

(5) It is a sovereign, powerful, and mysterious work (v.8)

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it,
but cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes.
So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

-2- The **mighty and irresistible power** of God is behind this work

-3- It is a **wonderful, a mysterious work**

- man cannot see its secret initiation
- man cannot plummet its depth – it is the work of God!

Further Application: