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**“The Testimony of God Pt2
By Water & Blood”
(1Jn 5:6-12)**

Truth Matters Church, Inc.

2 **Scripture Reading**

1 John 5:1-12 (NASB)

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. 10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

3 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:6**

6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

- ☞ This verse has interpretive challenges
- ☞ “water and blood” [more on this]
- ☞ “the Spirit who testifies” [more on this]

4 **“water and blood”**

There are 3 common interpretations:

☞ Interpretation A:

☞ water = baptism

☞ blood = Lord’s Supper

☞ Rationale:

☞ Two sacraments of Scripture

☞ Baptism: Jesus “came” by the “water” of baptism

☞ Communion: Blood was used to describe the cup of the New Covenant

☞ Interpretation B:

☞ water = baptism or spiritual cleansing

- ☞ blood = crucifixion

- ☞ Rationale:

- ☞ Followed by many scholars

- ☞ Jesus "came" by the "water" of baptism, Jesus is the "Living Water"

- ☞ Water is synonymous with life or descriptive of the need for us to be washed clean of our sin

- ☞ Jesus "died" by the cruel cross and atoned for our sin

- ☞

5 "water and blood"

- ☞ Interpretation C:

- ☞ "water and blood" is in reference to the spear thrust into Jesus's side

- ☞ Rationale:

- ☞ Combatting Gnosticism (Jesus wasn't really a man, but a spirit that looked human"

- ☞ This undermined the atonement

- ☞ So which view is right?...

- ☞

6 "water and blood"

- ☞ Here's what we'll take into consideration

- ☞ Nowhere in this epistle does John ever talk about baptism or Communion

- ☞ Interpretation A loses its luster for me

- ☞ Since part of Interpretation B attributes "water" with "baptism" loses its luster for me as well

- ☞ We're really left with Interpretation C (refers to Jesus being speared)

- ☞ Let's see if it holds up...

- ☞

7 "water and blood"

- ☞ Let's also take into consideration

- ☞ Context of letter

- ☞ When did John use in any of his epistles:

- ☞ "water and blood" together

- ☞ "water" by itself

- ☞ "blood" by itself

- ☞ And let's see where we land...

- ☞

- ☞

8 "water and blood"

- ☞ Context of letter

- ☞ Overall: John is combatting false teaching, including the Deity and Humanity of Christ

- ☞ Gnosticism (gnosis = knowledge, cism = belief or branch of thought)

- ☞ Mystical secret knowledge

- ☞ Matter is evil, including the human body, therefore, God could not have become a man

- ☞ Immediate: John is affirming that we overcome the world through our faith and testimony that Jesus is the Son of God

- ☞ The testimony of God is in view in 1Jn 5

- ☞ Now let's look to see when did John use in any of his epistles:

- ☞ "water and blood" together

- ☞ "water" by itself

- ☞ "blood" by itself

- ☞

9 ☐ "water and blood"

- ☞ "water and blood" together

- ☞ Besides our passage (1Jn 5), John uses both of these words together in his gospel:

- John 19:34-37 (after the soldiers saw that Jesus was dead)

- 34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35 He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

- ☞ Note: some will say because of the order "water and blood" vs. "blood and water" they're not talking about the same thing (lets put a pause on that for now)

- ☞ In Jn 19:35: John is bearing witness on his eye witness account

- ☞ In Jn 19:36-37: Scripture is bearing witness on the testimony concerning Jesus

- ☞ In 1Jn 5:6: the Holy Spirit is bearing witness of the testimony concerning Jesus

- ☞ Collectively, John/The Holy Spirit/Scripture all bear the same testimony

- ☞

- ☞

- ☞

- ☞

- ☞

10 ☐ "water and blood"

- ☞ "water " by itself

- ☞ John uses it several times, more notably

- ☞ To refer to the waters of baptism

- ☞ To refer to the new birth

- ☞ We must be born of "water and Spirit"

- ☞ To refer to Jesus as the "Living Water"

- ☞ Water of Life

- ☞ "blood" by itself

John uses it several times, more notably

Physical birth (born not by blood nor the will of flesh or man – Jn 1:13)

Spiritual drink (Jesus’s body is true food and blood true drink – Jn 6:55)

Cleansing (“the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin” – 1Jn 1:7)

Spiritual currency (purchased with blood of the Lamb – Rev 5:9)

John

With these in mind, let’s re-look at v. 6

John

John

John

John

John

John

11 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:6**

6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

John Jesus is the One who came by “water and blood”

To come (arrive) by water (baptism) is plausible

To come (arrive) by blood (Communion) is not plausible

To come (arrive) by blood (crucifixion) is plausible

To come (arrive) by “water and blood” (humanity) is certainly plausible!

As for “the Spirit who testifies”...

12 **“the Spirit who testifies”**

This could be a reference to the baptism account (Interpretation B)

Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove

But again, given John does not address baptism in this letter, although true, I don’t think is the strongest interpretation

When harmonizing Jn 19 and 1Jn 5, the Spirit who testifies can also mean

The Holy Spirit in John is testifying as to who Jesus truly is

The Holy Spirit who authored Scripture (including John’s writings) also is a testimony as to who Jesus truly is

Thus “the Spirit who testifies” can also mean “The Holy Spirit is a witness to the deity and humanity of Jesus”

With these in mind we can begin to cross cancel...

John

13 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:6**

6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

- ☞ Jesus is the One who came by “water and blood”
 - ☞ To come (arrive) by water (baptism) is plausible, but not likely the context
 - ☞ To come (arrive) by blood (Communion) is not plausible
 - ☞ To come (arrive) by blood (crucifixion) is plausible
 - ☞ To come (arrive) by “water and blood” (humanity) is certainly plausible!
- ☞ Also given...

14 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:6**

- ☞ John did not talk about baptism in this whole letter
- ☞ The overall context of this letter (combatting false teaching, God’s testimony)
- ☞ John also used “water and blood” together on his eye witness account of what he saw when Jesus was speared...
- ☞ Harmonizing 1Jn 5 with Jn 19
- ☞ I favor...

15 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:6**

- ☞ Interpretation C!
- ☞ That when John says “This is the One who came by water and blood” John is referring to when Jesus was speared, and thus, confirming His humanity and upholding the atonement and the testimony of God!

16 **AMP: 1Jn 5:6**

6 This is the One who came [physically and bodily] by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only [part physically and part bodily], but with the water and with the blood [that came out of him when I saw with my own eyes when He was pierced on the cross]. It is the Spirit who testifies [as to the full humanity and Deity of Jesus], because the Spirit is the truth [and so is the testimony of God in Scripture].

- ☞ Interpretation C flows nicely into v. 7-8...

17 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:7-8**

7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

- ☞ ‘testify’ is ‘martyreō’ which means to bear witness
 - ☞ We get our English word “martyr” to describe those who bear witness to Jesus and paid for that witness by being killed for their confession
 - ☞ Jesus was martyred!
- ☞ “the Spirit”: bears witness that Jesus was born of a virgin and martyred!
- ☞ “the water”: bears witness that Jesus was born as a man martyred!
- ☞ “the blood”: bears witness that Jesus was born and died as a man who was martyred
- ☞ All 3 are in agreement that Jesus is the Son of God incarnate who was martyred to make full atonement for our sins!
- ☞ This testimony is in contrast with in the testimony of men in v.8...

18 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:9**

9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.

- ☞ False teachers were bringing a false message
 - ☞ Including the Person and Deity of Jesus Christ
 - ☞ This is the "testimony of men"
- ☞ However, the greatest testimony is the "testimony of God"
- ☞ God testified in all of Scripture concerning the Person and Deity of Christ
 - ☞ His birth, death, resurrection, and ascension
- ☞ God's testimony in Scripture is greater (megas) and far superior than the testimony from any man, including, those who claim to have secret knowledge or wisdom

19 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:10**

10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

- ☞ Pretty straightforward, those who believe in the Son of God has God's testimony in his heart
 - ☞ We believe in the incarnation (the God Man)
 - ☞ We believe in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus
 - ☞ We believe that He bore our griefs, sorrows, crushed for our iniquities
- ☞ Those who refuse to believe in the Son of God is making God to be a liar for the testimony of Scripture is that Jesus is the Son of God
 - ☞ Rm 3:4 "...Let God be true, but every man a liar"

20 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:11**

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

- ☞ God testifies (bears witness) through Scripture that God "has given" (past tense) believers eternal life
- ☞ And this eternal life is sealed in Jesus's water and blood!
- ☞ Only faith in the testimony of God in Scripture concerning Jesus the Son of God who died for our sins to make full atonement for our sins can save us!

21 **Exposit: 1Jn 5:12**

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

- ☞ "He who has the Son" can be rendered "He who believes in the Son"
- ☞ He who believes in the Son of God has/possesses eternal life
- ☞ The opposite is true as well, he who does not believe in the Son of God does not have/possess eternal life

☞ John is repeating himself from his gospel:

John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

☞ Eternal life and Jesus come together! Jesus is eternal life! If we have Jesus we have eternal life!

☞ Those who do not have faith in Jesus, do not have eternal life, for Jesus is eternal life and faith in Him is the only way to be granted eternal life

☞