

John's Recap and Five Witnesses to Jesus

Sermon 14 in the 1 John Series

1 John 5:1-12

I. Recapping John's Primary Message 5:1-5

A. Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ have been born of God - 1a

- Exegetically “is born of God”. NKJV “has been born” ESV
 - Perfect tense** – a past tense with continued force in the present
 - Passive** – as opposed to active -- something was done to us and for us
 - Indicative** – it is a reality
- Doctrinally – regeneration comes before faith.
 - Life comes to the dead sinner – and he/she believes.
 - We are born of God – and that is the origination of our faith.
 - This has been John's consistent message – **2:29; 3:9a; 4:7b**

B. Those born of God – Love those born of God – 1b

A literal translation “everyone who loves the one who begets also loves the one begotten of him”.

Theophylact -- “If we love God, then we must also love those whom God has brought to birth and who have become our brothers and sisters. Loving one another is a sign of how much we love God.”

C. Loving God and obeying God go hand in hand 5:2-3

Psalm 119:14, 16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 143, 174

Jerry Bridges Transforming Grace: “Love provides the motive for obeying the commands of the law, but the law provides specific direction for exercising love.”

D. Overcoming /Victory 5:4-5

II. Five Witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God 5:6-12

A. The Johannine Comma (Sentence) 5:7-8

From “in heaven” in v.7 and ending with “on earth” (v.8) are most likely not original.
The doctrine of the Trinity is true and found throughout the Bible.

B. Five witnesses 5:6-12

1. The Witness of the Water v. 6

Matthew 3:16-17 -- ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**” (from Psalm 2:7 & Isaiah 42:1)

2. The Witness of the Blood v. 6

John the Baptist attested to the sacrifice of Christ when he said, “Behold the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.”

The beginning of his ministry – baptism.

The end of his earthly ministry – his crucifixion.

3. The Witness of the Spirit v. 6-8

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and bears witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 15:26 – “But when the Comforter comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

Deuteronomy 19:15 -- by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

4. The Witness of the Father v. 9

There are three witnesses to the work, the ministry and the deity of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit testifies.

The Father testifies.

Jesus testifies of himself.

John 5:36-37 -- But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷ And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me.

5. The Witness of the Believer Himself v. 10-12

Spurgeon in his sermon entitled “The Priest Dispensed With” 1 John 5:10 in 1875

“Let me, first of all, say a word or two about the way in which we are saved, the *modus operandi* of salvation, as we find it described in the Scriptures. Here it is in a nutshell. We have all broken God’s Law and we are justly condemned on account of it. God in infinite mercy, desiring to save the sons of men, has given His Son, Jesus, to stand in the place of as many as believe in Him. Jesus became the Substitute of His people and suffered in their stead, and for them the debt of punishment due to God was paid by Jesus Christ upon the Cross of Calvary. All who believe in Him are, thereby cleared before the bar of Divine Justice.

Now, the Lord, having given His Son, has revealed this great fact in His Word. Here it is in this Inspired Book – the full statement of it – to this effect, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and that whoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ has everlasting life. This is God’s testimony! ... All we have to do in order to realize the result of Christ’s passion is simply to *believe* the testimony of God concerning it and rest upon it!

The argument runs thus – Christ saves those who trust Him. I trust Him and, therefore, I am saved. Jesus Christ suffered for the sins of His people. His people are known by their believing in Him. I believe in Him and, therefore, He died for my sins, and my sins are blotted out. This is the summary of the transaction. God’s testimony concerning His Son is at first believed, simply because God says so and for no other reason. And then there grows up in the soul other evidence not necessary to faith, but very strengthening to it – evidence which springs up in the soul as the result of faith, and is the witness referred to in our text – “He that believes has the witness in himself.”