



Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John



1 John 5:4-5

- *Born to Victory!*

1. The One and the Other
2. The One over the Other
3. The One or the Other

1. The One and the Other

- All who believe that Jesus is the Christ are born of God (5:1a)
- All who love the One having given birth also love the other children born of Him (1b)
- We know we love the other children of God when we love God and do what He says (2)
 - To love God is to keep His commandments (3)

1. The One and the Other

- Those born of God follow God's way of life
 - Characterized by righteousness and love
- The world presents a way of life that is not from God; in fact, it is anti-God (2:15-17)
 - Characterized by darkness, falsehood, hate, stumbling, the evil one, lusts, lies, deceit, sin, murder, death

1. The One and the Other

- Those operating in the world system see the commands of God as *oppressive/restrictive* (cf. Rom. 1:18-32)
 - *Lawlessness* (self-love, self-rule) (3:4)
- But His commandments are not *oppressive* to those who are born of God

2. The One over the Other

- “**For** whatever is born of God **overcomes the world**” (5:4a)
 - We *are* children of God *now*, but we’re not exactly like His Son yet (3:1-2a)
 - When His Son returns we will be like Him (2b)
 - “everyone who has this hope fixed on Him **purifies** himself, just as He is pure” (3)

2. The One over the Other

- “and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (5:4b)
 - Our faith in Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ, the pre-existing Son of God, come in the flesh, sent by God to be the propitiation for sin) frees us from the world’s way of thinking
 - *Faith*: knowledge -> action (e.g. – 2:3; 3:16)

2. The One over the Other

- All who believe the truth about Jesus are born of God
- Whatever is born of God overcomes the world
- Therefore, all who believe the truth about Jesus overcome the world
- “Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

3. The One or the Other

- Those born of God must operate in a different system (*Light, the truth, like Jesus, love*)
 - We reject the world system and instead do the will of the Father (2:15-17)
 - We reject lawlessness and instead practice righteousness and love (2:29; 3:4-10)
 - We reject the false prophets and instead listen to the true prophets from God (4:1-6)

3. The One or the Other

- We cannot love the world system and love God
 - “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (2:15)
 - How can you love both *God* and *something that hates God* at the same time?

3. The One or the Other

- We cannot love the world system and love God
 - “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)
 - “Who’s friend do I want to be?”

3. The One or the Other

- Those born of God have the power to obey the commands of God
 - *New Life in Christ!* – *sanctification* (Romans 6)
- Those born of God do not have to live by the world's ideals, values, plans, ways, goals, definitions, explanations, solutions, etc.
- Instead, we live like Jesus (2:3-6; John 16:33)



So What?

- Those born of God should not live like the world any more!
- Purifying ourselves involves recognizing where we still hold to the world system and repenting
 - Practice the truth (1:6-7; cf. 2:3, 14)
- Those born of God are free to love (cf. Gal. 5:13)
 - Sign of being born of God (1 John 4:7)



So What?

- Those born of God should not live like the world any more!
 - Why do we still do it? Either:
 1. We don't understand what God has done
 2. We want to go back (*lawlessness* - 3:4; cf. Ex. 16:1-7; 32:1-6; Num. 11:1-6)
- Does your life demonstrate *victory*?