

Born Again, John 3:1-3

I. Birth

- A. "Again" - anew or above
- B. Born anew or Born from above
- C. Our first birth is from flesh, our second from the Spirit
- D. "You are born, then you die"
- E. "You are born, born again, then you live forever"

II. Recognition;

A. John 3:1–2; Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

B. Nicodemus

- 1. Greek - Innocent Blood
- 2. Hebrew - Victor over the people
- 3. A wealthy Pharisee
- 4. Member of the Sanhedrin
- 5. "Ruler of the Jews" - in Rabbinic literature, a title reserved for "a great man, or a prince"
- 6. He argued for Jesus in front of the Sanhedrin
- 7. John 7:45–52; ⁴⁵ The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" ⁴⁷ The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? ⁴⁸ Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹ But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ⁵¹ "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" ⁵² They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."
- 8. John 19:38–40; ³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

C. Even with all the Pharisaical teaching Nicodemus had received, he recognized the power of God.

- 1. He saw the miracles that Jesus performed and knew they could only be accomplished through God
- 2. While some Jewish leaders were converted, the Gospels present us with the majority who did not
- 3. Nicodemus is named as one who was; even with his Pharisaical upbringing and indoctrination, he recognized the Messiah

D. We should be able to recognize Him as well

1. We are given the “God breathed” Scriptures
 2. From the very beginning to the very end, they point to Jesus
 3. Galatians 3:16; Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.
 4. 1 Peter 1:18–20; ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you
 5. “Let **us** make man... after **our** likeness” Genesis 1:26
 6. John 1:1–2; In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God.
- E. Many people in the First Century recognized Jesus as the Messiah; at least 3000 did on the day of Pentecost
- F. Do you recognize Jesus as God’s son, given all authority, our Savior and Redeemer, our Lord and Master?

III. Understanding

- A. John 3:3–4; ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”
- B. While Nicodemus recognized Jesus as God’s Messiah, he did not understand Jesus’ teaching here
1. None of us can go back into the womb, that is easily understood
 2. Born “again” - to be born anew or born from above
 3. A new birth not like the old birth, something new and different that has nothing to do with our earthly birth
- C. A new creature
1. Ephesians 4:22–24; ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
 2. Colossians 3:9–10; ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- D. We must understand that a new birth is required, we cannot belong to Christ without this new birth, this “born of water and of the Spirit.”
- E. Our new birth requires action!

IV. Action

- A. Galatians 3:23–27; ²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- 1.The coming of Christ ushered in the promise of being justified by faith
- 2.The Law could never justify us, the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin (Hebrews 10:4)
- 3.Only the Blood of Jesus, through the promise of God

B.Born of water and the Spirit

- 1.Acts 2:38; And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C.Baptism

- 1.Colossians 2:11–15; ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through **faith in the powerful working of God**, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- D.God’s promise is for those who desire to put off the old man and clothe themselves with Christ

V.Born Again

- A.We must recognize the deity of Jesus
- B.We must understand that we need a new birth
- C.We must act, bury ourselves with Him in baptism; put on Christ