

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BIRTH

(John 3:1-7)

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- I. INTRODUCTION (John 3:1-7)
 - A. If you are a Christian, then you are born again.
 - B. It is a divine imperative that we must be born again.
 - C. Why must we be born again?
 - i. Because of our undeniable sinfulness.
 1. If we believe we can go to Heaven without being born again, then we do not know:
 - a. How sinful we are.
 - b. How holy God is.
 - ii. Because of our unsatisfied longings.
 - iii. Because of our unending existence.
 1. Our souls will be in existence somewhere forever; either in Heaven or Hell after this present life is over.
- II. SIX WAYS THAT BEING BORN-AGAIN SPIRITUALLY IS LIKE BEING BORN PHYSICALLY
 - A. In a birth, conception takes place.
 - i. What are the two parents in a spiritual birth?
 1. The Word of God and the Spirit of God.
 - a. John 3:5
 - b. 1 Peter 1:23
 2. When the Word of God and the Spirit of God come together in the womb of faith, a conception and new birth takes place.
 - B. In a birth, continuity is involved.
 - i. Parents transfer, or transmit, life from themselves to the child.
 - ii. When we are born again, the life of God comes into us. We become partakers of the divine nature. There is new life within us.
 1. Salvation is not simply getting man out of Earth and into Heaven; it is getting God out of Heaven and into man.
 - iii. John 10:10
 - C. In a birth, character is produced.
 - i. We receive the character of God by our new birth.
 - ii. Christians are not just nicer people; we are new creatures.
 - iii. John 3:6

- iv. 1 Corinthians 15:22
- v. 2 Peter 1:3-4
- vi. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- vii. What are the traits of the twice-born?
 - 1. There will be a love for Jesus Christ.
 - 2. There will be a desire for holiness.
 - a. 1 Peter 1:16
 - b. 1 John 3:9 - this does not mean that we can never sin; we still have the old nature that we inherited from our earthly parents. The Greek word used in this passage means that we cannot habitually practice sin. If sin is our lifestyle, then there has not been a change in our life.
 - 3. There will be the inner witness of the Spirit.
 - a. This is not an emotional feeling; this is an inner-consciousness that we belong to Jesus.
 - b. 1 John 5:10
 - c. 1 John 4:13
 - 4. There will be a desire to share the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. You will want people to know Jesus.
 - b. What is the burning desire of God the Father? To hear Jesus Christ.
 - i. Matthew 17:5
- D. In a birth, a completion transpires.
 - i. A birth is a once-for-all experience.
 - 1. In the physical realm, the birth takes place one time. In the spiritual realm, the birth takes place one time.
 - 2. Luke 10:20 – the Greek word in this passage means that your name stands written.
 - 3. You will always be a child of God if you've ever been twice-born.
- E. In a birth, a commencement occurs.
 - i. Once there is a completion (the birth is finished), now the growth begins.
 - ii. No matter what your past has been by the old, physical birth, if you have a new birth, you get a brand new start.
 - iii. Psalm 103:12
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

1. Sanctified – you've been set aside, clean and holy for God.

2. Justified – as if you were never impure to begin with.

v. Philippians 1:6

F. In a birth, a certainty is expected.

i. A new birth is a certainty; we should be able to say that we know that we have been born again.

ii. What is the proof that you are born again? That you are now trusting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord.

iii. John 3:16