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What does it mean to be Born Again?

I Peter 1: 22-25

Many people have false views about being born again:

- "You've got to be baptized to be born again."
- "You've got to speak in tongues to be born again."
- "I've been born again _____ times."
- "I've always been born again."

The one behind all of this confusion is the master deceiver that the Bible calls Satan. He is a fallen angel, and he has flooded the world with alternative ways to "be born again."

Jesus said that the mark of a true Christian (someone who has been born again) is his or her love for other believers, John 13:35.

Unity "an almost forgotten virtue." - Chuck Swindoll

Our unity is based on the fact that we are all a part of God's spiritual family by our spiritual birth. If we try to build unity in the church on the basis of our first birth, we will fail; but if we build unity on the basis of our new birth, it will succeed.

The **externals** of this life that could easily divide us mean nothing when compared with the **eternals** of the Spirit that unite us.

Peter's teaching about those who are Born Again!

1. What happens to us when we are Born Again?

A. We have a _____ Soul, v. 22a.

Before you are saved, your soul was stained with sin.

We are not sinners because we sin.

We _____ because we are sinners.

Two Proofs of our Sin Nature:

Proof One – Biblical _____!

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Romans 5:12

Proof Two – _____ in every nursery!

B. We _____ the Truth of God, v. 22a

When you believe and obey the Bible, you live a new life. You have new thoughts which lead to new attitudes; you speak new words, and you have new actions.

"If you are what you were,

then you ain't what you think you are!"

Bad grammar, but great theology!

C. We _____ our brothers and sisters in Christ,
v. 22b

A loving relationship with God's children

is _____ of a changed life.

Peter uses two different words for love:

1) Love of the brethren – "phileo" = brotherly love.

2) Love one another – "agape" = God's sacrificial love.

We are to show both kinds of love. We share "brotherly love" because we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We share "agape love" because we belong to God, and we follow His example of forgiving.

Unfeigned love means a sincere love – a _____ love.

God is kind to us, and so we are to be kind to others. It has nothing to do with how we feel but is a _____ of our will.

We have two "Life Coaches" to help us live on the victory side:

The Word of God and the _____ of God.

The Word of God shows us what to do.

The Spirit of God gives us the spiritual strength to succeed. The first spiritual fruit the Holy Spirit grows in us is love, Galatians 5:22.

2. How are we born again?

A. *Peter's instructions on how to be born again, v. 23.*

Peter says, "We are born again when we hear and believe the Word of God." The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.

B. *Paul's instructions on how to be born again.*

"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."
Romans 10:17

C. *John's instructions on how to be born again.*

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."
John 1:12

John 3:1-7, 16-18. We are born separated from God. Only born-again believers go to heaven!

D. *James' instructions on how to be born again.*

"Of his own will begat He us with the Word of truth..."
James 1:18

"... and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls."
James 1:21b

We are born again by believing that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again. It is not enough just to "know" about this truth in our head, but we need to trust in Him from our heart. When the Spirit of God illuminates the Word of God in our heart, then we can receive Him as our Lord and Savior. The moment you believe in His death, burial, and resurrection for your salvation, you are saved.

3. What are the Benefits of Being Born Again?

A. *We receive a new _____.*

You have the spiritual DNA of your Heavenly Father in your spiritual veins. Just as you have a likeness to your earthly parents, you now have a spiritual likeness of your Heavenly Father.

B. *We are members of God's _____.*

We are joint heirs with Christ, Romans 8:17. We have a heavenly inheritance with our Savior.

C. We have the Holy Spirit _____ inside of us.

We have been bought by the blood of Christ and we are literally indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

D. We are _____ a home in heaven forever.

If you do not have 100% assurance that heaven is your home, today you can trade your doubt for faith and assurance. Do not delay! Today is the day of your salvation.

E. We will receive _____ bodies that will sin no more.

4. How important is it to be born again?

Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6-8 and reminds us that life is fleeting and temporary, v. 24.

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass."
Isaiah 40:7

Your life is a beautiful gift of God, but it is fragile. God determines the exact moment you were born and God determines the exact moment your life is over.

This life is temporary, v. 24.

The Word of God lasts forever, v. 25.

God's Word is eternal. God's Word is imperishable.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
Matthew 24:35

The first heaven and first earth will be destroyed by _____. The physical universe according to 2 Peter 3:10 will be burned, and God will create a new heaven and a new earth for His children.

Jesus said, "Nobody takes My life from Me. I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to raise it up again." Jesus chose to lay His life down for you. He not only made you, but He loves you and He invites you to come to Him to be born into His forever family.

Your life will be over before you know it. Now is the time to turn your life over to Christ and let Him have _____ control.