

1 John 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Analysis

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. John connects faith, regeneration, and love. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ" (pas ho pisteuōn hoti Iēsous estin ho Christos)—pisteuōn (present participle) indicates ongoing, habitual faith. "Jesus is the Christ" confesses that the historical Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah, God's anointed Savior. This faith's content matters—not generic belief but specific trust in Jesus as the Christ.

"Is born of God" (ek tou theou gegennētai)—the perfect tense indicates completed regeneration with continuing state. Those who genuinely believe demonstrate they have been born of God. This raises the classic question of order: does faith produce regeneration or regeneration produce faith? Reformed theology maintains that regeneration precedes and enables faith—God births us, enabling us to believe. However, from our experiential perspective, faith evidences regeneration. We don't see the new birth directly but recognize it by faith's presence.

"And every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" (kai pas ho agapōn ton gennēsanta agapa kai ton gegennēmenon ex autou). Loving God the Father who begat necessarily involves loving fellow believers who are begotten of Him. This continues chapter 4's theme—love for God and love for God's children are inseparable. We cannot claim to love the Father while despising

His children. Family love is inevitable among those sharing the same heavenly Father.

Historical Context

The confession "Jesus is the Christ" was central to early Christian proclamation. Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:16) and John's gospel purpose (John 20:31) emphasize this truth. For Jews, acknowledging Jesus as Messiah meant accepting that the promised deliverer had come in unexpected form—not conquering king but suffering servant. For Gentiles, it meant recognizing Jesus's unique divine appointment.

The metaphor of being "born of God" appears throughout John's writings (John 1:12-13, 3:3-8). This wasn't standard Jewish terminology, which emphasized covenant membership through physical descent from Abraham. Jesus and John revolutionized this—spiritual birth, not physical lineage, determines God's family membership. This birth is supernatural (John 3:8), sovereign (John 1:13), and evidenced by faith and love. The Reformation recovered this truth against works-righteousness—salvation is by grace through new birth, not human achievement.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does your ongoing faith in Jesus as the Christ provide evidence that you have been born of God?
2. What's the logical connection between loving God the Father and necessarily loving His children, your fellow believers?
3. If genuine faith in Christ results from being born of God, how does this affect your evangelism and your understanding of conversion?

Interlinear Text

πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐστιν ὁ Χριστὸς ἐξ
Whosoever G3588 believeth G4100 that G3754 Jesus G2424 is G2076 G3588 the Christ G5547 of G1537
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τοῦ Θεοῦ γεγεννημένον καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπᾷ τὸν
G3588 God G2316 him that begat G1080 and G2532 Whosoever G3588 loveth G25 G3588
G3588 G3588 G3588 G3588 G3588 G3588 G3588 G3588 G3588
γεγεννημένον ἀγαπᾷ καὶ τὸν γεγεννημένον ἐξ αὐτοῦ
him that begat G1080 loveth G25 and G2532 him that begat G1080 of G1537 him G846
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Additional Cross-References

John 8:42 (Love): Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

1 John 3:14 (Love): We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

1 John 2:29 (Parallel theme): If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1 John 4:7 (Love): Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

1 John 4:20 (Love): If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1 John 2:10 (Love): He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

Matthew 16:16 (References Christ): And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 15:23 (Parallel theme): He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

1 John 4:2 (References Jesus): Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

1 John 5:4 (Faith): For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

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