

The Epistles of John

Week 38: 1 John 5:4-5

Somewhere along the line in Christian history, some have come to the conclusion that, since salvation is by grace through faith, then obeying God and keeping commandments must be an optional added extra. Our author would break out in a rash if anybody had said this to him

Ben Witherington III

1 John 4:20-5:5

1 John 5:4–5 (ESV)

4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 4:20-5:5

In verse 4 John says that everyone who has been born of God is able to keep God's commands because he has been given power by God to overcome the negative influences that would prevent such obedience. Because of the new birth, the believer is given supernatural power to withstand the forces of the world.

“Who is it that overcomes the world?” Rhetorical question. “Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” And yet the pressure from the world to be conformed to its mold is strong. This is why Paul, for example, in Rom 12 warns, Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold. “Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed in your mind.” This is a constant battle, because the assault against Christian character and Christian behavior and Christian belief is ongoing in a world full of darkness.

Application for This Week

We have one applications this week:

We have already overcome the world because our Faith has triumphed over the world at the cross, and yet we are daily in the process of overcoming the world.

Homework

My blog with past lessons is:

www.UnapologeticallyJohn.com

Thank you for coming!

See you back next week