

For God So Loved... the New Birth!

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John 3:9-21

Oak Community Church (PCA)

Jesus Cut to the Heart of the Issue

- Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and 'offered opportunity'
- Jesus didn't take the bait... instead said '*unless one is born again...*'
- Nicodemus thought physical not spiritually
- Born again of water and spirit - likely reference from Ezek 36:25-26.
- Action of Spirit is like the wind⁸

Nicodemus - In the Dark on Spiritual Things

- Nicodemus asked, "how can these things be?"⁹
- He didn't understand because to understand spiritual we need:
- God's Word - WCF1.1 Nicodemus had Word but didn't believe¹¹⁻¹²
- Nature points us to God but not sufficient^{4Rm1:19-20}. WCF 1.6
- Fallen Men Need God's Awakening natural man misunderstood^{Jn2:19;4:10}
- Men need regenerating work of Spirit^{7,11;Eph4:18}

The Source of the New Birth

- Jesus show HOW the New Birth is possible¹³⁻¹⁴ - Work of Son of Man^{Dan7:13-14}
- Lifted up^{Num21:4-9}; rebellion against God>judgment; solution=look up
- Jesus let Nicodemus know purpose of Son of Man coming> to cure us!
- Jesus became sin for us^{2Cor5:21} by being lifted up.
- We receive salvation when we look to Christ (believe) on Him!

The Reason for the New Birth

- Jesus tells WHY God gives us New Birth - Jn 3:16
- Unique religion> God's love is the reason salvation possible, not our works
- World made good^{Gen1:31}; Adam rebelled^{Gen3:1-7}; Sin cursed world, murder^{Gen4} and death resulted
- Jesus came to reverse the curse^{Jn3:19-20} because of God's love¹⁶

The Means of the New Birth

- God's love means He sent Son to redeem and Spirit to make us alive
- Man naturally rejects God's love - Spirit makes alive to truth^{Jn16:13-14}

Jesus' Work and Words Will Give You Life!

- Jesus is SOURCE of the New Birth
- Jesus showed us God's Love is the REASON for the New Birth
- Jesus showed us the MEANS of the New Birth is through the Spirit

Did Nicodemus Believe? Will You Believe?

- We're not told in this narrative...
- Jn 7:51 - Nicodemus defends Jesus before Pharisees... still thinking?
- When Jesus lifted up Nicodemus was there...
- After crucifixion Nicodemus cares for Jesus' body^{Jn19:38-40}
- No longer worried about consequences^{Jn3:8}
- What about you? Are you looking to Jesus alone as source of new birth?
- Remember John's words - ^{Jn 20:31} *these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name*