**Born of God**

**The Word**

Read together 1 John 2:28-3:10

**The Big Idea**

In a fallen world that is under the control of the evil one, God still works miracles as he gives people new birth through his Spirit. Such spiritual new birth changes people’s lives, gives them the status of children of God, and breaks the power of sin in their lives.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Sunday’s message talked about the need for a changed life after coming to faith in Jesus. Read Galatians 6:7-9 and Ephesians 5:3-6. How do we makes sense of passages like that in light of other passages that say we are saved by faith alone and by grace alone?

2. On Sunday we talked about the control Satan currently has on this present world. How much should a Christian think about Satan in their daily lives? How much credit should they give to him in terms of the amount of power he has and the amount of influence he has on various events in life?

3. On Sunday we talked about the miracle of new birth. How can someone who identifies as a Christian tell whether or not their conversation was authentic and “the real thing?”

4. John’s call in this passage is to “continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming” (2:28). When you consider Christ coming again in his glory as judge of all people, and you consider wanting to stand “confident and unashamed” in that moment, what specific changes does that event want you to make in terms of how you are approaching your life?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Introduction: Setting the Right Tension

A. John is not calling people to sinless perfection in this passage

1. 1 John 1:8-10 makes this clear

2. Most likely the “continuing in sin” he refers to in our passage (v. 6, 9) is a certain posture towards sin that is willful, firmly entrenched and habitual

B. But John is reminding us of a new birth that does break the power of sin and radically change our posture towards sin

1. He doesn’t want us to be lead astray (v. 7) by people who say sinning doesn’t really matter

2. See also Galatians 6:7-9, Ephesians 5:3-6

C. Two dangers in the Christian life

1. Legalism: striving for the life God wants in our own strength

2. Comfortable delusion: thinking we’re authentic Christians when in fact we aren’t

II. John’s worldview: we live in a spiritual world with spiritual beings

A. Bad news

1. The world is under the spell/control of Satan (1 John 5:19)

a. He has been sinning since the beginning (v. 8)

b. He has been lying since the beginning (John 8:44)

c. He casts his spell of sin and lies

2. To be born into this world is to be born under his spell

a. Born spiritually dead as followers of him (Eph 2:1-3)

b. Born as children of the evil one (1 John 3:10 and John 8:39-44)

1) Being children of the evil one doesn’t mean he created them, or that they are intentionally pursuing him or they are even aware he exists

2) It means his spell gives birth to their thoughts and actions

B. Good News

1. God sent his son to perform a rescue operation and break Satan’s spell

a. He is righteous and pure and without sin (2:29, 3:3, 3:5)

b. He came to break the spell of sin (v. 5, v. 8)

2. The new birth

a. See 1 John 3:1-3, John 1:10-13, John 3:1-8

b. The new birth is a miracle: a supernatural act of God brought about by his Spirit in which he frees people from Satan’s spell, forgives them, and gives them new hearts of flesh by putting his Spirit in them

c. When the new birth happens, a person comes to faith in Jesus: where there was self, there is now God; where there was control, there is now surrender; where there were negative voices, there is now the Spirit’s voice crying “Abba”

d. Becoming a Christian is a miracle

III. The implications of the new birth

A. When that miracle of new birth happens, people can’t stay the same

1. People won’t continue in that entrenched posture towards sin (v. 9)

2. Because God’s “seed” (= Spirit) remains in them and the fruit of the Spirit are formed in them over time

3. So Christians continue to sin at times, but that entrenched posture towards sin is changed forever

IV. Conclusion: so what do we do?

A. Continue in him (v. 28)

1. Don’t try to live the Christian life in our own strength

2. Don’t start with the Spirit and then continue by human effort (Gal 3:2-3)

3. Continue in his forgiveness every day (1 John 1:9)

4. Continue in him and allow him to be a “destroyer of sin” in your life (v. 8)

B. So that we may be “unashamed at this coming” (v. 28)

1. This does not mean we’ve been perfect throughout our lives

2. It does mean we have fought the good fight and kept the faith