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"WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD DOTH NOT COMMIT SIN"

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I John 3:9 is a very misunderstood scripture. Men have put a variety of interpretations on this verse. But, as with all other scripture, it has but one meaning. Therefore, we will endeavor to take this passage of scripture and prove that.

IT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God," I John 3:9.

The meaning of this verse did not come overnight to me. It is the result of diligent study of many scriptures concerning the New Birth; and, the Holy Spirit bringing them all together to reveal a great truth. This truth answers a lot of questions in theology and will put to silence the people who believe that salvation is by works or that a child of God can be lost after he is saved. All that I ask is that you be honest and sincere with the thoughts and scriptures given; and, I am sure that you will also come to the truth of this verse. I know full well that those who are lost will not accept the truth because of the blindness of their hearts.

There is a sense in which the one born of God cannot commit sin. The cause as stated, BECAUSE HE IS BORN OF GOD. I am aware of the interpretations given to this verse that say that a child of God cannot habitually practice sin; that the child of God cannot apostatize; and that the child of God is not under law, therefore where there is no law, sin is not imputed. All these are true; but, they are only the results of the truth. Some would even dare to say that the child of God, born from above, never sins at all. But this contradicts several other scriptures: I John 1:8, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:10, "If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." The Apostle

Paul says in Romans 7:17, "*Sin that dwelleth in me*" and in Romans 7:20, "*sin that dwelleth in me.*" The Bible says in Hebrews 12:5-8, God chastens every son that he receives and if a son (or claiming to be a son) isn't chastened, he is a bastard and not a son. Therefore, every child of God is a sinner, or why else would God chasten his children?

What I have said will not be contradictory, not when we really study what Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:6 "*That which is born of flesh is flesh: and that which is born of spirit is spirit.*"

BECAUSE HE IS BORN OF GOD

I John 3:9b, "*He cannot sin, because he is BORN OF GOD,*" As Jesus stated in John 3:6, a saved person has been born two times. In John 3:3, he told Nicodemus, "*Ye must be born again.*"-- another time. The first birth was by human parents, and every person born of man came into this world with a sinful nature. Psalms 51:5, "*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*" Psalms 58:3, "*The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*" Therefore, we see the Bible is very plain that we were born with a sinful nature and because of that nature we practice sin. Ephesians 2:1-3 describes the results of the sinful nature and its effect on the life, "*the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind: and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*" The Apostle Paul describes this as being dead in trespasses and sins in Ephesians 2:1. "*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*" This same Apostle in Romans 8:7 says "*Because the carnal [fleshly] mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*" These verses show us why Jesus said, "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN." The first birth, which was re-

ceived through Adam and our parents, is so depraved and corrupt that God must perform a totally new birth. Not a reworking of the old birth, but an entirely new birth.

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

The Bible is quite clear about these two births. Jesus himself set this truth forth in John 3:6 when he said, "*That which is born of flesh is flesh. That which is born of Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*" The Lord is placing the emphasis upon the corruption of the fleshly nature received in the natural birth. Since man has, by birth, a sinful nature that is not subject to the law of God and neither indeed can be; then Jesus says there must then be a spiritual birth from above. This birth would produce a nature that delights to do God's will, a person brought forth who cannot sin.

Notice in Ephesians 4:22-24 where Paul tells the saints in Ephesus to "Put off the former conversation [behavior] the OLD MAN, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts [speaking of the fleshly birth], and be renewed in the spirit of your mind [the mind received in repentance, change of mind, which came through the new birth]. And that ye put on the NEW MAN, [that which was born again from above] which [notice closely] AFTER GOD IS CREATED [not worked over] in righteousness and true holiness." That new nature "*is Christ in you, the hope of Glory.*" Colossians 1:27. Now again in Colossians 3:9, "*Ye have put off the OLD MAN* [fleshly birth] *with his deeds, and have put on the NEW MAN* which [notice closely] *is renewed in knowledge after the IMAGE of HIM* [God] *that created him.*"

Now the first Adam was created in God's image and likeness but he lost that image and likeness when he sinned and partook of the forbidden fruit. Thus, when Adam and Eve had children, they were not

born in the likeness of God, but they were like ADAM. Genesis 5:3, "Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image." Adam was a depraved sinner and he begat sinners in his own likeness. But when we come to consider the new birth, a person being born again, from above--man has no part in this birth. It is the working of the HOLY SPIRIT that performs this birth upon whom he will. John 3:8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, [wills] and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the spirit." James 1:18. "Of his own will beget he us with the word of truth." We need to remember that the same spirit that performed the birth of Jesus in the womb of Mary, and gave him a sinless nature, is the same spirit that performs the new birth in us. Now what kind of nature do you suppose the Holy Spirit gives a child of God? You guessed it - - A SINLESS NATURE. That is the only kind he could give.

LIKE BEGETS LIKE

This is God's law. Like always begets like. Now let us go back into the book of Genesis and prove over and over again that like begets like--such as the trees, the herbs, the animals, the fowls, the fish. I think that it is an established fact that this is how it is, right up to this present time. Beans produce beans, corn produces corn, horses produce horses, robins produce robins, bass produce bass and etc. Now when we were born of our parents we received the same nature our parents had (a sinful nature). But when we were born of God, we received the same nature from him by whom we were born (a sinless nature). That's the only kind he could produce. There is no way that the Holy Spirit could produce a sinful person.

WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD DOETH NOT COMMIT SIN

Notice: it says, "Whosoever is born of God." The old man has never been born of God. It keeps on sinning after the Holy Spirit performs the New Birth. But, I say again, that the new man, the new nature received in the new Birth, does not commit sin, for His seed remaineth in Him and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. The old man (born of flesh) has never been born of God. John 3:6, "That which is born of flesh is flesh, that which is born of spirit is spirit."

TWO-FOLD NATURE OF THE CHILD OF GOD

The OLD MAN--born of flesh. The

NEW MAN--born of Spirit. Every child of God has a two-fold nature. When born again, the old nature continues as before, and he has the same old desires and lust that he had before. Therefore, we have the exhortation to put off the old man which is corrupt, etc. But, in the new birth, the child of God receives a new nature that hates sin, that cannot sin. John says in I John 4:4b speaking of the new man, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Galatians in chapter 5:17, describes the battle of the two natures-- "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." The Apostle Paul, describing his own experience with the warfare going on within him, describes it as such: Romans 7:15-25, "For that which I do [old man] I allow not: [new man] for what I would [new man], that do I not [old man]; but what I hate [new man] [notice, he hates sin, the same as God hates sin], that do I [old man]. If then I do [old man] that which I would not [new man], I consent unto the law that it is good."

There is nothing wrong with the law of God. Its purpose was stated in Romans 3:19-20, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Now this same law continues to do the same in every child of God. Paul says that the problem is with my old fleshly nature that I still have. Romans 7:14, "The law is spiritual: but I am carnal [fleshly], sold under sin. Now then it is no more I that do it [new man - notice..., Paul just said, I DON'T SIN] but sin that dwelleth in me [old man]. For I know that in me, [that is, in my flesh] dwelleth no good thing [old man]."

This shows us that Paul realized he was very much a sinner. He states in I Timothy 1:15 that this is who Jesus came to save. Jesus himself said in Matthew 9:13, "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:12, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." As we go on further in Romans, chapter seven, listen to Paul as he describes himself as a sinner. Verse 18 "For to will is present with me [new man]." I wonder where Paul received this will to do God's will. Philippians 2:13, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Now think . . . does God

ever work anything in us that is not perfect? Does he ever lead us to do anything that is not perfect? NO . . . A THOUSAND TIMES NO. Therefore Paul says in Philippians 2:12 to "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." God has worked it in, now you work it out. Thus he says, make that old body of yours do God's will rather than fulfill your own lust. Galatians 5:16, "Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh." **The lust of the flesh is still there.**

Romans 7:18-20, "How to perform that which is good I find not [old man]. For the good that I would [new man] I do not [old man]; but the evil which I would not, [new man] that I do [old man]. Now if I do that I would not, [old man] IT IS NO MORE I THAT DO IT [new man]." Notice . . . Paul just said it again. I don't sin. He was referring to the new man that was born of God. "But sin that dwelleth in me [old man] that is in my flesh." Notice again . . . that Paul was still a sinner, yet he also had a nature that could not sin. This is exactly what Jesus said in John 3:6, "That which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of Spirit is Spirit."

Romans 7:21-22, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good [new man] evil is present with me [old man]. For I DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF GOD after the inward man." The one that is born of God, created in righteousness and true holiness as Ephesians 4:24 states. The one that was made after the image of him that created him. Verse 23, "But I see another law in my members [old man] warring against the law of my mind [new man]." Note . . . the mind received in regeneration thru repentance which is a change of mind, "bringing me [new man] into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members [old man]."

Verse 24, "O wretched man that I AM! [not was] [old man] Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? [old man]." Romans 8:10, "If Christ be in you [new man] the BODY is dead, because of Sin [old man]: but the Spirit is life because of righteousness [new man]."

Righteousness--which every child of God is created unto. Paul is saying, I am a new man, through the new birth, that hates sin, that delights in the law of God. I find myself imprisoned in a body full of sin, with a fleshly nature that constantly wars against my heavenly nature. Oh! How I long to get out of this old body, so that I can serve God perfectly as I desire.

Verse 25, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Note: That which is born of flesh is flesh and will continue to

be until the death of the saved person. That which is born of God is Spirit and is perfect and will continue on throughout all eternity. Romans 8:1, *“There is therefore NOW no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, [Because Jesus died for all the sins of the old man]. who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

SINS ARE STILL THERE . . . WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

These verses teach that the sins committed are the sins of the old man. The sins of the fleshly nature, we were born with. We received this nature through our parents going back to Adam. When a person is born again, they are given faith to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

Ephesians 2:8, *“For by grace are ye saved [Greek have been saved] THROUGH FAITH: and that not of yourselves; IT is a GIFT OF GOD.”* Faith is a gift from God. Every child of God receives the Gospel into his heart. Romans 1:16, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.”*

What is the gospel? Who has the power that can free us from all our sins? How can God save and forgive us? I Corinthians 15:1-4, *“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand: by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.* (Note: Is it any wonder that God’s people keep the good news in their hearts because they are still sinners. They live by faith, Jesus Christ is as precious many years after salvation as he was when they were saved.) *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”*

WHAT SINS DID HE DIE FOR?

Now let us think about this carefully. My message is--whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin. He doth not sin. Romans 6:6 says that Jesus died for the sins of the OLD MAN, that the body of sin might be destroyed (Greek done away). This tells us that Jesus only died for the sins of the fleshly nature. He did not die for any sins of the new nature because there are none. The new nature never sins.

I John 3:9, *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin: for his seed remaineth in him; And he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”* Now if you will

think about this for a while you will see that Jesus died for the sins of the old man only. Jesus died for all of the sins of the child of God, past, present, future that the body of sin might be destroyed.

NOT UNDER LAW. . . UNDER GRACE

Now this being so, all the sins of the old man have been punished and laid on Jesus as he died. I Peter 3:18, *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.”* Romans 5:10, *“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”* I Peter 2:24, *“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins.”* Sins all paid for as Romans 6:6-11 teaches. II Corinthians 5:21, *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

Romans 6:14b, *“We are not under law, but under grace.”* Notice . . . when a person is taken out from under law, even though the law is broken, it can never condemn that person. He is not under law but under grace. Now if all the sins of God's children were not punished; past, present, and future; then God could not take us out from under law. God must punish sin and sin is the transgression of the law. But since Jesus died for all of our sins, (all were future when he died) then he can receive us as a son since, through the new birth, we have received a nature that cannot sin and all of the sins of the body were punished in Jesus. Even though a child of God sins, as Paul says we do in Romans chapter 7, God no longer deals with us as a lost sinner because we are a child of God. When a child of God sins, God deals with him as a son. Hebrews 12:5b-15 gives us the details of this chastening. *“Despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons.”* This shows us that every one of God's children are still sinners and still in the flesh. This also shows us that God deals with his children through chastening and not through condemning them to hell. The child of God is not under law. He still sins but grace has saved him, is saving him, and will continue to save him.

Galatians 3:24-25 also tells us that the child of God is not under law but under

grace, after teaching us that the law has never saved one person and was not given to give life but to show our guilt. Verse 24, *“wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [teaches us our guilty condition] to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”* Not under law but under grace.

BORN OF GOD

I John 3:9, *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”* God has never performed an imperfect birth yet. Like always produces like. John 3:6, *“That which is born of Spirit is spirit.”* What the child of God needs is this old body changed. Philippians 3:21, *“Who [speaking of Christ] shall change our VILE BODY, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body.”* Then our new body will be the house of the New Nature.

BORN OF FLESH. . . OF SPIRIT

Who will be bold enough to say that the Holy Spirit in the New Birth doesn't produce a person the same as the fleshly birth did? The body is just the house that both persons dwell in. At death, the child of God goes to be with the Lord, II Corinthians 5:8, *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”* [but not the body]. He must await a new body in the resurrection. The old nature ceases to be at the death of the child of God. He is delivered from that. But when a lost person dies, he drops into hell. Luke 16:22-23, *“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”* Both the body of the lost and saved go back to dust.

Now at the resurrection of the just, the saved will receive a Spiritual body, a body given life by the spirit. (Romans 8:11). One like unto the body of our Lord. But the lost will have the same body they had here on earth. It is never said that their body will be changed. Yes, the New Man is greater than the OLD MAN. In fact, the New Man cannot sin. I John 3:9, *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.”* He cannot sin. But I must remind you that the OLD MAN is just as powerful and as wicked as he ever was. Every child of God has the OLD MAN to deal with. Although the sins are done away with, he has a daily battle to put it down in order to glorify God with it day by day. The fleshly nature is

just as depraved and has the same old desires as it had before the person was saved. God did not change it when he performs the new birth but has given us the privilege of putting it off, or putting it to death, or crucifying the lust and affections of the flesh so that we might live like him. I Corinthians 6:19-20, "*What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*"

WHOSOEVER COMMITTETH SIN IS THE SERVANT OF SIN

I believe John 8:34b also has the same teaching. "*Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*" Now that, the OLD Man commits sin, has been proven. Then the Lord says that the servant abideth not in the house forever. Romans 6:16-18, "*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*" Notice two things said--free from sins, and servants of righteousness. In John 8:36, Jesus says, "*If the son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*" This is the same teaching as in Romans 6 when Paul says that Jesus died for the sins of the OLD Man. John 8:32, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" Now when a person is born from above he is born by the Word of God. I Peter 1:22b, "*Obeying the truth through the Spirit.*" It is the Holy Spirit that performs the new birth by or through the Word of God. Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. Jesus' dying on the cross is the cause of our justification. The Holy Spirit of God in us, bearing witness to the truth, is regeneration and sanctification. The truth here is the water in John 3:5. John describes this water in John 4 as living water, also in John 7 "living water," which was the Holy Spirit who caused the people at Pentecost to speak the wonderful works of God. I say again, that He that is born of God doth not commit sin. The OLD flesh commits sin and never ceases to commit sin. But that New Nature in a child of God, which is the Holy Spirit bearing witness with the truth, does not sin. Every child of God has these two natures. Therefore, the child of God does sin. But the child of God does

not sin. This is not contradictory if you understand the two natures.

CONCLUSION

This being so, it condemns all those that teach that salvation is by works. Ephesians 2:8-10, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*" Saved by grace through faith . . . created unto good works (new nature). But the OLD man is still sinful and will always be until death. This condemns all who believe that you can live above sin. Certainly the NEW man does. He cannot sin, but it is not a second work of grace that puts him into this condition, but ever child of God received this sinless nature by the first work of Grace (new birth). It condemns those who say you can be lost after you are saved, because they do not understand that when you are saved, it is a new birth and not the working over of the birth of the flesh. It is a nature that cannot sin, and yet the old flesh is no better years later. The only good thing in a child of God is what Grace has done. Paul said, "*I am what I am by the Grace of God.*"

Therefore we conclude . . . I John 3:9, "*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...*" **IT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS!**