

1st John # 88 Conclusion Part 2

1st John 5:18-21

If there's one thing we've learned in 1st John, it's if we're not occupied with having intimate experiential abiding fellowship with the real Jesus Christ as the object of our attention in the spiritual life, we don't have a real spiritual life, because it's only the real Jesus who is fully God in undiminished deity and fully man in true physical humanity who gives us the principle, sets the precedent and provides the security for the Christian way of life.

What John is saying is that whoever is born of God doesn't sin because he's born of God and has a new nature and because he's been born of God and has this new nature, Satan can't harm him; so there's an emphasis on the eternal security of the believer where there's only so much Satan can do as a result of Jesus Christ's victory over sin, death and the devil.

When we're operating in carnality, led by our sin nature instead of the Holy Spirit, we're out of fellowship, acting like we have no clue who Jesus is or what He's done for us, so we're not following Him in His example of the prototype Church Age spiritual life.

John is talking about a born-again believer's new nature demonstrated in a mature believer who's experientially abiding in fellowship with Jesus Christ, walking as He walked, dependent on the Holy Spirit and the Word and therefore, not sinning.

Our new nature imputed to us at salvation can't sin and if we're abiding in fellowship with Jesus Christ, our new nature which can't sin dictates but when we voluntarily choose to walk according to our sin nature, our new nature is stifled and we sin.

Our new self in Christ is holy and righteous, so when we're in experiential abiding fellowship with Jesus Christ, our new self is showing itself and that new self can't sin.

All believers are from God but only those who live and function inside the plan of God are aware of it and this awareness becomes the basis for true thanksgiving, accurate interpretation of history, correct analysis of any situation in life, the ability to handle our own life before the Lord and so ultimately, the reason why we're still alive is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

We know we're born of God when we're operating in our new nature in contrast to operating in the world system under the influence of the evil one Satan, the mastermind of the cosmic world system.

When we're experientially abiding in fellowship with Jesus Christ, we're walking in the light and we cannot be operating in the darkness of worldliness.

It is to our advantage to have the plan of God as our greatest asset in glorifying Him and finding the meaning and purpose of life on this earth.

Virtue and happiness are only manufactured inside the plan of God through learning and

applying biblical truth.

The environment for learning is the plan of God which is the only environment for virtue, happiness, capacity for happiness, love, life and blessings.

We have an obligation to live in the plan of God, learn biblical truth, advance to spiritual maturity, produce virtue and as a result have great happiness in life but the obligation, like practically everything in the Christian life, is potential depending upon individual self-motivation through personal, private, daily decisions before the Lord.

This indicates that we're responsible for our own decisions in life and if we make the right decisions, we open the door for greater decisions for great happiness and great prosperity and that's the virtue that glorifies God in time as well as in eternity; in time through the power of the spiritual life and in eternity through rewards and decorations that add to the resurrection body.

Idolatry is associated with demonism which is common at the time John wrote in the Roman Empire but it was also the basis for the destruction of every client nation in history.

To guard ourselves from idols as believers, we must use our free-will to live and function inside the plan of God.

To elevate anything or anyone over God who is infinitely above and beyond His creation and separate from His creation as the One who dictates to everyone and everything in His creation, is idolatry.