

BEGOTTEN OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of letter: 1) unbelieving Jews denied the deity of Jesus, saying, Jesus is not Christ.
2) the Gnostics denied the humanity of Jesus, saying, Christ was not Jesus.
This group claimed superior knowledge. They concluded that it was impossible for sinless deity to occupy a sinful body. They also concluded that once regenerated, they were pure in spirit; so, it did not matter what behavior the body engaged in.

"begotten of God" - new birth; spiritual birth; newness of life; born again; a Christian.
(John 3:3-6; James 1:18; 1 John 3:1)

1. (1 John 2:29) "... every one that does righteousness is born of him"

Know that Jesus is righteous: His attitude was (John 4:34) "do the will of him that sent me"
"does righteousness" - (Psa. 119:172) "for all thy commandments are righteousness"
(Rms. 6:1-2; John 14:15; John 15:10, 14)

2. (1 John 3:9) "whosoever is born of God does not commit sin ... cannot sin"

"does not commit sin" - not habitually sin; not keep on sinning; not our life-style.
"seed remains in him" - the word that begat us will sustain us. (Psalm 119:11 v101-106)
"cannot sin" - not a statement of impossibility; rather, I don't want to and will not.
It's against my spiritual nature, and I have no desire to sin, and you can't make me.
I will be a law-biding citizen in the kingdom. I cannot willfully break the law.

When we do sin: (1 John 1:4-10)

3. (1 John 4:7-8) "love one another ... every one that loves is born of God ..."

An illustration from family love: look at what families do for one another.
Now we are in God's family, and just as love is God's nature, let's "love one another."

4. (1 John 5:1) "whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God ..."

This is the opposite of what many in our world believe; but, we keep believing it.
(v1-2) includes: "love him that begat ... love the begotten ... keep his commandments"

5. (1 John 5:4) "whatsoever is born of God over-cometh the world ... even our faith"

(v3) the commandments of God are not grievous to us because it's in our nature to keep them.
It's our "faith" that doing God's will gives us the "victory" Hymn #469

6. (1 John 5:18) "whosoever is born of God sins not ... keeps himself ..."

It's God who keeps us (John 10:27-30); but, we have responsibility, too.
"wicked one touches him not" - (1 Peter 5:8-9; James 1:12, 4:7)