

John 3:1-10 (NIV)

(1) Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. (2) He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." (3) In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

(4) "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" (5) Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. (6) Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. (7) You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' (8) The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

(9) "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

(10) "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

CARDBOARD RELATIONSHIPS PART THREE



Who was Nicodemus?

1. He was rich. It was Nicodemus who bought the spices for his body. John 19:39
2. He was a Pharisee. The best people of the Country - never more than 6000 of them. The name Pharisee means 'the separated one', they separated themselves from all ordinary life in order to keep every detail of the law of the scribes.
3. He was a member of the Sanhedrin which was the Supreme Court of the Jews with 70 members. They had Jurisdiction over every Jew in the world. Their job was to examine and deal with anyone suspected of being a false prophet.

*HIS TERMS—"Born Again"

"Born again" is the Greek word 'anōthen' and it has three meanings.

1. from the beginning, completely radically
2. again, in the sense of 'for the second time'
3. from above —meaning 'from God'

*Was Nicodemus wishing he could start over, wishing he could be born again, tired of checking boxes?

*Being 'Born Again' is a Supernatural Experience

- Can't be Inherited
- Can't be Earned -Titus 3:5

*It is God who is directly at work in you, drawing you, planting the seed in you, bringing about a brand new you. -John 6:44

*The move of God is like the wind—don't know where it came from or where it is going but you can see the effect that it is having. -John 3:8

*It is not about turning over a brand new leaf or gaining a 'peaceful feeling.' It is about a new nature being born not reforming the old nature, it is killing it.

*A new creation—something that did not exist before is born inside, disorientated, vulnerable, beautiful

Does Baptism Save You?

Millions have been taught this—Is it a Tragedy?

Rebirth/Re-creation in the New Testament

Born anew by God's mercy

- 1 Peter 1:3

Born anew of imperishable seed

- 1 Peter 1:22-23

New Birth through the word of God

- James 1:18

Washing of regeneration - Titus 3:5

Dying with Christ rising in new life

- Romans 6:1-11

Babes in Christ - 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

New Creation - 2 Corinthians 5:17

New Creation - Galatians 6:15

New Self - created to be like God

- Ephesians 4:22-24

Brand new Child - Hebrews 5:12-14

HOW?

- Choose to followRomans 10:13
- RepentMark 1:14-15, Acts 3:19
- BelieveJohn 3:16
- ReceiveJohn 1:12.
- ConfessRomans 10:9-10