

# The Untouchables

1 John 5:1-21

Shadrach Means

**Key Words:** Children of God, Sanctification, Eternal Life

**Media Reference Number GSX831**

**Sunday June 14, 2026**

The last time we were together, we looked at one of the most remarkable conversations in all of Scripture — Nicodemus had gone to Jesus by night to discuss who Jesus was. Jesus looked at him and said something that stopped him cold: *"You must be born again."*

Maybe you realized that God doesn't want to improve who you were; He wants to make you something entirely new.

I know many who prayed that day to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Today, I want you to know that becoming born again is more secure, more permanent, and more powerful than you may realize. Because today we're not just talking about how to *become* a child of God. We're talking about what it means to *be* one.

John — the same apostle who recorded that conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in John chapter 3 — wrote a letter late in his life to a congregation wrestling with doubt, false teaching, and spiritual attack. And in the closing verses of that letter, he wants them to *know* something. Not guess. Not hope. *Know!*

That's where we're going today. Open your Bibles to 1 John chapter 5.

**To lay a foundation, let's look at 1 John 5:1-5.**

**1 John 5:1-5** <sup>1</sup>Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God!
  - Or, born-again.
- *How do you know if you are?*
  - Do you love God? Before you say yes, do you love others?
    - We can know if we are born-again by taking a simple test.
      - Do you keep His commandments?
        - You may ask, “*The Ten Commandments?*”
        - I would answer, “*The Two Commandments.*”

**Matthew 22:36-40** <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “ ‘*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And *the* second is like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

- The two sum up ALL the law and prophets!

**Now, let's look at what makes us untouchable.**

## **Untouchable, because we are born-again.**

**1 John 5:18** “We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”

- *We know* –
  - One of three statements in this last passage about what we ‘KNOW.’
    - 1. *We know whoever is born of God does not sin.* (v. 18)
    - 2. *We know we are of God.* (v. 19)
    - 3. *We know the Son of God has come* (v. 20)
- *Born of God* –
  - **John 3:3b** “...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
  - **John 3:5b-6** “...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

- **1 Corinthians 15:50a** “...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.”
  - New birth results in new behavior.
    - **2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
- *Does not sin –*
  - *Untouchable because sin has no power over him.*
    - *It’s not that we are unable to sin.*
      - **1 John 1:8** “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
      - **1 John 2:1-2** “<sup>1</sup> My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”
    - *It’s that we no longer practice sin.*
      - **1 John 5:18** “***We know that God’s children do not make a practice of sinning***, for God’s Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.” ***NLT***
  - *Because we are free from the power of sin.*
    - **Romans 6:7** “For he who has died has been freed from sin.”
    - **Romans 6:10-11** “<sup>10</sup> For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
    - **Romans 6:14** “...sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”
    - **Ephesians 2:1-3** “<sup>1</sup> And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

- Since we are free from it, we can no longer live in it!
    - **Romans 6:2** “How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”
- *Untouchable because ‘He’ (Jesus) KEEPS ‘him’ (the believer).*
- *Does not touch* – The word is “stronger than *toucheth*; rather *graspeth, layeth hold of*” (Smith, in *Expositor’s*). “It means to lay hold of or to grasp rather than a mere superficial touch.”
  - **Colossians 1:13-14** “<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”
    - *Conveyed* – moved out of the jurisdiction of.
      - The Father has transferred us into the kingdom of His Son!
        - **John 17:15-17** “<sup>15</sup> I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
  - We aren’t immune to spiritual warfare!
    - **Job 1:8-12** “<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" <sup>9</sup> So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? <sup>10</sup> Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup> But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" <sup>12</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”

- “*Satan*” can tempt us but cannot control us. He cannot make us sin.
  - **2 Corinthians 10:3-6** <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”

## **Untouchable, because we are of God.**

**1 John 5:19** “*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*”

- *Of God – out of God or birthed by Him.*
- This is John's consistent language throughout the epistle:
  - **1 John 2:29b** *“everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.”*
  - **1 John 3:9a** *“Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him.”*
  - **1 John 4:4a** *“You are of God, little children.”*
  - **1 John 4:6a** *“We are of God. He who knows God hears us.”*
  - **1 John 4:7b** *“...love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God.”*
    - **John 8:41b-47** “Then they said to Him, “We (Pharisees) were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.” Jesus said to them, “**If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.** <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. <sup>44</sup> You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. <sup>46</sup> Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? <sup>47</sup> He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

- *The World* – lies under the influence of the wicked one.
- *Sway* – "to lie, to recline, to be laid out."
  - Those without Christ are under the influence of the wicked one.
  - *Who is the 'prince of the power of the air.'*
    - **Ephesians 2:1-3** "<sup>1</sup>...you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the ***prince of the power of the air***, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."
  - *Who governs the kingdom of darkness with the power of darkness.*
    - **Colossians 1:13** "He has delivered us from the ***power of darkness*** and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."
      - Spiritual blindness, moral corruption, satanic dominion. It is the character and atmosphere of Satan's kingdom.
  - *Who blinds the minds of those who do not believe.*
    - **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** "<sup>3</sup>...if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds ***the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe***, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."
  - *Who has taken them as prisoners.*
    - **2 Timothy 2:24-26** "<sup>24</sup> And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them **repentance**, so that they may **know the truth**, <sup>26</sup> and *that they may come to their senses and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do his will*."

## **Untouchable, because we have an understanding.**

**1 John 5:20** “And *we know* that the Son of God has come and has *given us an understanding*, that we may *know Him who is true*; and *we are in Him who is true*, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”

- **We KNOW –**

1. *The Son of God has come –*

- Knowledge that is **absolute, complete, and settled**. An intuitive, full knowledge. You don't arrive at it through a process — you simply **know it**.
  - **Job 19:25** “I know *that* my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth.”
  - **2 Timothy 1:12b** “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

2. *Given us understanding –*

- The eyes of our understanding/hearts have been opened.
  - **2 Corinthians 3:17-18** “<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
  - **John 12:46** “I have come as a light into the world, that *whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.*”
  - **Romans 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

3. *That we may know Him –*

- Knowledge that grows deeper by experience. God has revealed Himself to us through His word, not only His desire for our lives.
  - **Hosea 6:3** “Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter *and* former rain to the earth.”
  - **Psalms 46:10** “Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

- **John 17:3** “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
- **Philippians 3:10** “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...”

#### 4. *We know we are IN Him –*

- We are –
  - Not we will be, or we were.
- The apostle Paul uses the exact phrase ‘in Christ’ 80-85 times in his writings.
  - If you combine ‘in Christ’ with closely associated phrases like ‘in Him’ ‘in the Lord’ ‘in Christ Jesus’ etc. 160-165 times.
- **Ephesians 1:3** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ...”
- **1 Corinthians 15:22** "For as in Adam all die, even so in **Christ** all shall be made alive."
- **Galatians 3:26** "For you are all sons of God through faith in **Christ Jesus**."
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
- **Romans 8:1** "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."
- *The true God and eternal life –*
  - Jesus is God!
    - **Isaiah 7:14b** “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
      - *Immanuel* – God with us.
    - **Isaiah 9:6-7a** “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there will be* no end...”

- **John 1:1-2** “<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.”
- For those who say Jesus didn’t claim to be God, He certainly did!
  - **John 10:30-33** “<sup>30</sup> **I and My Father are one.**” <sup>31</sup> Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. <sup>32</sup> Jesus answered them, “**Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?**” <sup>33</sup> The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

## **Therefore, know what you believe!**

**1 John 5:13** “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.”

- One day a preacher asked a man, "What do you believe?" "Well, I believe the same as the church." "And what does the church believe?" "Well, they believe the same as me." Seeing he was getting nowhere, Whitfield said, "And what is it that you both believe?" "Well, I suppose the same thing."
  - You must repent, believe Jesus is God, died on the cross, was buried for three days, and rose from the dead. You must confess with your mouth what you believe.
- Once you believe, you can know you have eternal life!
  - **Ephesians 6:17** “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:8-11** “<sup>8</sup> But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

## Therefore, keep yourselves from idols!

**1 John 5:21** “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

- **1 Corinthians 10:13-14** <sup>13</sup> “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.**”
- **Colossians 3:5** “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”
  - **Colossians 3:5b** “Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.” NLT
- **1 Corinthians 10:18-22** <sup>18</sup> “Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? <sup>19</sup> What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? <sup>20</sup> Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and **I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.** <sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. <sup>22</sup> Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?”
  - An idol for us would be anything that we give our heart, soul, strength, or mind to above the God.
    - **Mark 12:29-31** <sup>29</sup> “Jesus answered him, **'The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.**”
      - **Heart** – denotes the seat and center of all physical and spiritual life
      - **Soul** – the seat of feelings, desires, and affections
      - **Mind** – knowing, understanding
      - **Strength** – ability, force, strength, might

**Love God with your entire being and don't allow anything to come between you and him!**

**And you will remain 'Untouchable.'**