

What does Only-Begotten Mean?

He who has the Son has THE Life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have THE Life.

When Adam and Eve fell does anyone suppose that God Almighty was caught off guard and without a plan? Only a fool would believe such a thing. God had the plan, “the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.” Romans 16:25

Furthermore, how many people believe that this great plan and secret of God was to merely put His children back on a pre-fall basis? Indeed, many well intentioned people believe just that.

Why are we told that God “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” Ephesians 3:20

Because that is exactly what He intends to do, and no area more important than His eternal plan for the salvation and elevation of His children. This is what it is all about.

First some elementary background.

God gave Adam and Eve and all of their descendants the power of free choice. They chose to sin. He has chosen to redeem us with the life and works of Jesus Christ. God has not done this to merely put us back on the status quo with Adam before the fall. He is fulfilling his original plan in spite of human choice. He has included man’s worst choice in his plan for overcoming all obstacles. God’s children can now trade in mere created human life for the only begotten life of the Son within them.

We know that to lose we would have to reject God’s offer. To go back to the pre fall-state of Adam would be a draw. We are supposed to win and we do.

What is only begotten life like? Look at Jesus on the cross. His body was long past supporting human life before he released his spirit back to the Father. Only Begotten life cannot be killed. It is the life of God Himself.

“For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.” John 5:26

This means that Jesus is the life source. This is theological proof of His divinity. Now He shares it with us.

“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:11-13 NASB

The Greek as reflected in the NASB contains the definite article THE life. That is because it is that particular form of life which God possesses. All living beings draw their natural life from God. Christians have the Only Begotten life inside them because Jesus is inside.

Research – description of only-begotten, a single word in the Greek:

Strong's Concordance 3439 monogenēs (from 3411 /mīsthōtós, "**one-and-only**" and 1085 /génos, "offspring, stock") – properly, one-and-only; "**one of a kind**" – literally, "one (monos) of a class

monogenés: only begotten

Original Word: μονογενής, Part of Speech: Adjective Transliteration: monogenés Phonetic Spelling: (mon-og-en-ace') Short Definition: only, only-begotten, unique Definition: only, only-begotten; unique.

Scriptures from John's Gospel NASB

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the ONLY BEGOTTEN from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me [m]has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"

16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth[p]were realized through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has seen God at any time; the ONLY BEGOTTEN God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. John 1:14 -18

For God so loved the world, that He gave His [e]ONLY BEGOTTEN Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the ONLY BEGOTTEN Son of God. John 3:16 - 18