

Learning to race BMX

Read John 3:1-21... *Joh 3:9 (CEV) "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.*

Once I got my bike, helmet and paid my race fees it was time to race! When I got to the race I thought it was going to be just simply riding my bike around the track and not much more. Boy did I have a wake up call. I fell off the gate the first time, thought I had to jump everything that seemed like a jump and had no idea how to get around the turns. On top of this I had no idea what they were talking about when they spoke "BMX language".

As I quickly realized I had a lot to learn about riding racing BMX. In BMX you don't jump every obstacle. Some obstacles you just roll through or manual and not jump. As you ride more you begin to know which technique to use and what will be the fastest way to get across the obstacles. It took practice and clinics to learn what I needed to so I could become fast.

"What moto do you have?" "What's your gate?" "Are you going to pull or pump that jump?" "Don't let him pimp you in that turn." These were all terms that I did not know. I realized quickly that I had to learn the language so I would know what was being said because in BMX a saying may have a totally different meaning than in the "outside" world.

Did we feel this way when we became a Christian? Was it like showing up the first day at the track, excited but having no idea what was being said or what to do? Many times we are expected to already know everything about being a Christian when we become a new Christian. I still remember the first time I was asked "are you saved?" My first thought was "is this guy gonna shot me?" A crazy thought I know, but I had no idea what "being saved" meant.

I imagine this is how Nicodemus felt when talking to Jesus. Twice While Jesus was talking; Nicodemus expressed confusion by what Jesus was talking about. Nicodemus was a teacher of the law, shouldn't he have known? Jesus was talking about something new that Nicodemus did not know yet. Just like in BMX, we need to learn the terminology and techniques to be able to rce, as a Christian we need to learn the terminology and the techniques of being a Christian.

There are terms we may hear regularly but do not know what they mean, saved, born again, justified, sanctified, and glorified, along with many others. Then there are the techniques to being a Christian, studing your bible, praying or talking to God, learning how to praise God and finally telling others about the good things God has done for us. These are all things that we did not know how to do when we first become a Christian.

Points to Ponder:

1. Going to church is similar to going to "clinics" to learn to race
2. Reading the bible helps us learn about God and who He is and Christian "terms"
3. Praying is not just talking to God but also listening to Him
4. We tell others about racing BMX, we need to tell others about what God has done for us

Additional Readings:

2 Tim 2:14-18; Acts 17:10-15; Romans 2:17-29