

# Hold Fast

1 John 3:4-16

**1 John 3:4-16 (Start Reading at verse 1)**

**Bestowed:** something that is supplied, extended, or given.

Matthew 22 Highways and byways

Come if you want to, don't if you don't - but make a decision.

Philippians reveals that the work God is doing in your life is **real**, is **eternal**, and is **ongoing**.

**Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;**

This is not a daunting, gruesome, solemn revelation but a **glorious realization**.  
The God of the universe, the one to whom all will bow and confess is personally remodeling and upgrading my life.

Everything that is being delivered to the church from this point on is in light of the honor and glory that it is to be called a child of God.

**Glasses can have two different prescriptions.**

1. The Nature of God
2. The Nature of God's children

## The Nature of God

Three things directly emphasized about the Lord.

1. **No sin:** to miss, make a mistake, misjudge, error

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie,..."

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2. **Is Righteous** – John mentioned Him as Jesus Christ **THE Righteous**

Upright, virtuous, - used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no correction or refinement in the heart or in life.

3. **Son of God**

Matt 16 – you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God - Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you. (THE ROCK AND FOUNDATION)

His very make up and His mission

Two things directly emphasized about what the Lord came to do.

1. **Take away our sins** "*In Christ, I have no sins.*" – so why soil it?!
2. **Destroy** the works of the devil

**Destroy:**

To loose or untie anyone who is bound, to unbind or set free.

To break up or demolish (Explosives expert or demolitionist)

**Steal – Kill – Destroy**  
**Restore – Revive – Renew**

Joseph understood... after some brotherly comedy, you meant it for evil but God used it for good.

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**Tower of Babel**

1 Corinthians 15:55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

- a. Even death has been defanged (Like a toothless lion with no claws)

**The Nature of God’s Children**

In the same way that there is a natural inclination for a child to learn to walk. To do the Elvis Presley wobble as they hang onto the couch or the edge of a side table. One who has received the gift of Salvation and in doing so has become a child of God... will have a natural tendency to walk with the Lord... wobbly in the early days and all, **there is a joyous desire to walk with the Lord and to be like Him.**

***John writes with great seriousness and sincerity***

(Paddles, clear! – shock you back to life)

**Telling of Trickery**

What do you think of sin?

**Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor (be horrified of) what is evil. Cling to what is good.**

**Horror:** an overwhelming or painful feeling caused by something frightful, terrifying, or revolting; to shudder with fear.

*Though there are some in society who don’t mind identifying with the devil, most will try to tame the language and side step the reality that, to engage in sin is to live like Satan. (8) He who sins is of the devil*

**Reawakened to destructive and costly nature of sin...**

The devil has sinned ***from the beginning***... this is not new news.

Father of lies... first thing you learn about Satan is that he is a trickster and manipulator

Satan loves a lukewarm or sterile Christian... He lost you, so He will try to take you out of the game...

*“There is an emphasis in our passage that your faith & your life are inseparable.”*

Before everyone walks out of here defeated we need to identify a few terms that John is using...

**Commits/Practives: (poi-e-o) to make, produce, or to provide for one's self.**

(There are two ways something ends up in your shoppingcart... you or your kids)

- *Follow Me and I will **make** you fishers of men – Matt. 4:19*
- *Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot **make** one hair white or black. Matthew 5:36*
- *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does** the will of My Father in heaven. – Matt. 7:21*

Morning assignment – Poi-e-o the will of your Father in heaven.

Practices: same word as Commits.

"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who **practice** lawlessness!' – Matt. 7:23

1 John 3:4 Sin & Lawlessness

Two for one deal and in fact, are the same

Break the one law you are guilty of breaking all of them

**James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.**

If you murder, your argument before a judge isn't, well I am not an adulterer.

If you speed in your car, your justification to a police officer is not that you are innocent because you haven't stolen anything. When you break the "micro" law you are guilty of breaking THE LAW.

**Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor (be horrified of) what is evil. Cling to what is good.**

**(7) Are you living a life of righteousness?**

*in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God*

Mirrors the call to be holy as He is holy

**1 Peter 1:15-16 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."**

**Religion** says you have to

**Relationship** cultivates a want to

**(9) Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him: and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.**

The **POWER & PERMANENCY** of Salvation

When Mr. Sperm meets Mrs. Egg... you cannot unmix that

To be born again, is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit into your very being.

WHAT?!?!

Does not sin

Because you cannot sin

Because you are born again – dear child of God

I do dumb... yes but I hate it, and certainly do not plan it.

Marble block that Michelangelo was carving David

Formed into His image

It is no longer I who sin but sin that dwells in me.

### **Nature of God's Children**

Not sin and sinlessness but sin vs. righteousness

Reptiles sheds their skin

**(10-15) – Rails the train runs on.**

Is anyone in here as loving as God is? Is anyone more loving than they used to be?

Is anyone living as righteously as Christ did? More Christ like than they use to be?

The Key Indicators of someone who has been born again

- **Righteousness** (Strong)

- **Love** (Compassionate)

Speak softly and carry a big stick – Theodor Roosevelt (1901)

How long did Cain hate his brother? As long as he was able.

(THERE ARE THOSE WHO **KNOW** RIGHT AND THEN THOSE WHO **DO** RIGHT!!!

Whoever abides in Him does not sin... (6)

**Reading your Bible and spending time in prayer is not your walk.**

That is the road and the fuel but what you do when you get up from the Bible or walk away from your prayer time is your walk.

**The way we keep ourselves true or pure and from being tricked is to;**

REMEMBER the Lord

REMEMBER who we are in Him.

Don't get your feather's ruffled when the world HATES you.

You are a loser to someone.

John keeps pointing back here...

Back to what the devil is

Back to the nature of Cane and Able

Back to who the Lord is

Back to who we are in the Lord

## **Faith and Life cannot be separated**

You are either in or out... follow Jesus or don't follow Jesus.

**The sincerity of your walk will be in direct relation to the sincerity of your worship.**

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You  
Every hour I need You  
My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You