

## The Book of First JOHN

### Chapter 3:4-24

# “Who Is A Child of God?”

## > FOUR TRAITS OF A CHILD OF GOD:

### **- TRAIT #1 – A CHILD OF GOD WILL PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNES! (v4-10)**

(v4) “*commits sin*”- This Greek verb has the force of a continuous present tense and thus denotes a person’s **habitual** attitude toward sin as expressed in his practice or non-practice of it. John is not speaking of a state of perfection in which it is impossible for a Christian ever to sin; but he is stressing the fact that a Christian cannot keep on **practicing** sin, because he is born of God.

(v5-6) **2 Cor 5:17-21**- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For **He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

(v7-8) “*to destroy*”- *To rob of power or to render inoperative.*

> **What are the works of the devil?** **Jesus said in John 8:44**- *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. **Jesus also said in Luke 8:11-12**- *“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the **devil comes and takes away** the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”* **Isaiah ch. 14** reveals that the devil is the originator of rebellious pride against God. **Paul wrote that Satan blinds the mind** (2 Corin. 4:4) *so people won’t receive Christ as Savior! Satan introduces false religions, establishes cults in Christendom, and fabricates heresy in the church (2 Corinthians 11:14).**

(v9-10) **A child of God will practice righteousness and love his brother.**

> **What does it mean to practice righteousness?** Turn to **Colossians 3:5-19**.

### **- TRAIT #2 – A CHILD OF GOD WILL LOVE OTHERS! (v11-18)**

(v11-15) **Cain vs. Abel – Genesis Chapter 4:1-10**

> **The Scripture says in Ephesians 5:1-2** - *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

- God is **LOVE**- Am I? What’s the opposite of love? **HATE**

- God is **LIGHT (righteous)** - Am I? What’s the opposite of light? **DARKNESS (unrighteous)**

- God is **LIFE**- Am I? What’s the opposite of life? **DEATH**

(v16-18) **True love sacrifices for one another! Who has God called you to sacrifice for today?**

➤ *Practice the three step program- **Pray—Love—Do!** (Do it for Jesus!)*

### **- TRAIT #3 – A CHILD OF GOD KNOWS THE TRUTH! (v19-22)**

> **What truth?** Jesus is the **Son** of God! (v19)

Jesus died for my **sins!** (v20 - past, present & future sins)

Jesus resurrected and gave me **everlasting** life! (John 5:24)

Jesus gave me the Holy Spirit so that my life can be like **His!** (John 3:3-8)

Jesus loves me this I know for the **Bible** tells me so! (v21-“confidence”)

Jesus will answer my **prayers!** (v22)

**- TRAIT #4 – A CHILD OF GOD KEEPS HIS COMMANDMENTS! (v23-24)**

> **What are His commandments? (1) Believe in Jesus! (2) Love one another!**

> **The Holy Spirit in us!**- **John 14:26-27** . . . *the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. **John 15:26**- "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (In word & deed.) **John 16:13-14**- However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all; truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*