

The Book of First JOHN

Chapter 3:4-24

“Who Is A Child of God?”(Part 4)

> **FOUR TRAITS OF A CHILD OF GOD:**

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

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

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

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

> **Four Commands to Keep:**

(1) ***Believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ!***

> The word **BELIEVE** in Greek is *pisteuo* which is to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ; the word **NAME** in Greek is *onoma* which speaks of authority and character.

> **Who is Jesus Christ? He is the:**

- **Son of Man** - The title Son of Man was Jesus' favorite way of referring to Himself. He may have done this because this was not a recognized title already known by the people and associated with popular ideas. This title means essentially "The Man." Jesus used the title Son of Man to refer to Himself as the one who exercised exceptional authority—authority delegated to Him by God. *"The Son of Man has power [authority] on earth to forgive sins."* Near the end of His ministry, Jesus spoke of His authority as the Son of Man at the end of time. Men and women *"will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory,"* He declared (Mark 13:26).

- **Messiah** - When Jesus made His declaration before the high priest and His colleagues, He did so in response to the question: *"Are You the Christ the Son of the Blessed?"* (Mark 14:61). He replied, "I am" (Mark 14:62), *"It is as you said"* (Matt 26:64). The Christ was the **MESSIAH**, the Son of David—a member of the royal family of David. Jesus belonged to the family of David. He was proclaimed as the Messiah of David's line, both before His birth and after His resurrection. When, at Caesarea Philippi, Peter confessed Jesus to be the Messiah, Jesus directed him and his fellow disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ. After His death and resurrection, however, the concept of messiahship among His followers was transformed by what He was and did. Then He could safely be proclaimed as Messiah, God's Anointed King, resurrected in glory to occupy the throne of the universe.

- **Son of God** - Jesus was acclaimed as the Son of God at His baptism (Mark 1:11). But He was also given this title by the angel Gabriel at the annunciation: *"That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God"* (Luke 1:35). The Gospel of John especially makes it clear that the Father-Son relationship belongs to eternity—that the Son is supremely qualified to reveal the Father because He has His eternal being *"in the bosom of the Father"* (John 1:18).

- **Word and Wisdom** - Jesus' perfect revelation of the Father is also expressed when He is described as the Word (*logos*) of God (John 1:1-18). The Word is the self-expression of God; that self-expression has personal status, existing eternally with God. The Word by which God created the world (Ps 33:6) and by which He spoke through the prophets *"became flesh"* in the fullness of time (John 1:14), living among men and women as Jesus of Nazareth.

- **The Holy One of God** - This title was given to Jesus by Peter (John 6:69, RSV) and remarkably, by a demon-possessed man (Mark 1:24). In their preaching, the apostles called Jesus *"the Holy One and the Just"* (Acts 3:14). This was a name belonging to Him as the Messiah, indicating He was especially set apart for God. This title also emphasized His positive goodness and His complete dedication to the doing of His Father's will.

- **The Lord** - *"Jesus is Lord"* is The ultimate Christian creed. *"No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit"* (1 Cor 12:3). A Christian, therefore, is a person who confesses Jesus as Lord; the Greek word *kurios*. After His resurrection and exaltation, however, Jesus was given the

title "Lord" in its full, christological sense. Peter, concluding his address to the crowd in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, declared, "Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The Bible declares Jesus became "*obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*" (Phil 2:8-11).

- **God** - If Jesus is called Lord in this supreme sense, it is not surprising that He occasionally is called God in the New Testament. Thomas, convinced that the risen Christ stood before him, abandoned his doubts with the confession, "**My Lord and my God!**" (John 20:28). But the classic text is John 1:1. John declared that the Word existed not only "in the beginning," where He was "with God," but also actually "was God." This is the Word that became incarnate as real man in Jesus Christ, without ceasing to be what He had been from eternity. The Word was God in the sense that the Father shared with Him the fullness of His own nature. The Father remained in a technical phrase of traditional theology, "the fountain of deity." But from that fountain the Son drew in unlimited measure. The Bible thus presents Christ as altogether God and altogether man—the perfect mediator between God and mankind because He partakes fully of the nature of both. (**Ref. John 8:52-58; 10:22-39**)

> **Believe in what He has done:**

- **The Work of Christ** - The work of Christ has often been stated in relation to His threefold office as prophet, priest, and king. As prophet, He is the perfect spokesman of God to the world, fully revealing God's character and will. As priest, Jesus has offered to God by His death a sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world. Now, on the basis of that sacrifice, He exercises a ministry of intercession on behalf of His people. As king, He is "*the ruler over the kings of the earth*" (Rev 1:5) - the one to whose rule the whole world is subject.

- **The finished work of Christ** - By the "finished" work of Christ is meant the work of atonement or redemption for the human race which He completed by His death on the cross. This work is so perfect in itself that it requires neither repetition nor addition. Because of this work, He is called "**Savior of the world**" (1 John 4:14) and "**the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**" (John 1:29).

- **The present work of Christ** - The present work of Christ begins with His exaltation by God, after the completion of His "finished" work in His death and resurrection. The first aspect of His present work was the sending of the Holy Spirit to dwell in His people. "*If I do not go away,*" He had said to his disciples in the Upper Room, "*the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you*" (John 16:7). The fulfillment of this promise was announced by Peter on the Day of Pentecost: "*Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear*" (Acts 2:33). (Nelson Bible Dictionary)

(2) **Love one another!** (Luke 10:25-37)

(3) **Keep His commandments!** (*How? By ABIDING!* John 15:1-17)

(4) **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.*