

“Children of God”

(1 John 2:28-3:10 ~ Part 1)

Introduction

➤ At about the turn of the 20th century (circa 1900), Adolf von Harnack (1851-1930) – a well-known theologian and church historian who promoted liberalism and universalism – wrote a book titled, *What is Christianity?* In it, among other liberal and universal teachings, Harnack “defined the essence of the Christian faith as the ‘universal fatherhood of God’ and ‘the universal brotherhood of man.’” While not a new teaching, this book had a sizable (negative) influence on Christianity in the 20th century (and beyond).

✓ Illust: “Adolf von Harnack, a famous German professor of church history, wrote a book that perfectly models the thought of this period. In *What is Christianity?* Harnack defined the essence of the Christian faith as the universal fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man. Harnack’s indebtedness to liberalism, humanism, and universalism is apparent in his book as it denies the exclusivity of Christ. To be true to Scripture, we do affirm the universal Creatorhood of God, for all people are made by Him (Acts 17:28). However, He is Father only of those who believe in His only-begotten Son – the Lord Jesus Christ” (www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/fatherhood-god).

➤ Unfortunately, the teaching of the “universal fatherhood of God” and/or “the universal brotherhood of man[kind]” has led many “Christians”, including prominent church pastors and leaders, to wrongly conclude that everyone is saved (except for, as some would concede, the “really bad people” or those who outright reject God). It is a false teaching, and one that every true Christian needs to reject and denounce.

✓ Illust: Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892): Believe the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God to His people. As I have warned you before, abhor the doctrine of the universal fatherhood of God, for it is a lie and a deep deception. It stabs at the heart, first, of the doctrine of the adoption, which is taught in Scripture, for how can God adopt men if they are all His children already?

In the second place, it stabs at the heart of the doctrine of regeneration, which is certainly taught in the Word of God. Now it is by regeneration and faith that we become the children of God, but how can that be if we are already the children of God? [John 1:12-13]. How can God give to men the power to become His sons if they have it already?

Believe not that lie of the devil, but believe this truth of God, that Christ and all who are by living faith in Christ may rejoice in the Fatherhood of God” (Charles Spurgeon, sermon “Our Lord’s Last Cry from the Cross”; 1893).

➤ To be sure, every human being is created by God but not every human being is a child of God. God is the Creator of all mankind, but not the Savior of all mankind. The description of ‘child of God’ can only rightly be used of those who are saved by God – the salvation that is by God’s grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

The truth revealed in Scripture is that everyone is indeed a child – i.e., everyone has a spiritual father. A person is either a child of God (by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior) or a child of the devil (by rejecting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior). Furthermore, God’s Word is abundantly and unmistakably clear that everyone is a child of the devil unless/until they become a child of God – i.e., until they are truly saved.

Eph 2:1-3 ~ “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” (see Eph.5:6; Tit.3:3; Gal.1:4; Jms.4:4; Matt.13:36-43)

John 8:42-47 ~ “Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.’”

1 John 5:19 ~ “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

1 John 3:10 ~ “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

➤ The passage before us this morning details the differences between those who are saved (children of God) and those who are unsaved (children of the devil).

1 John 2:28-3:10 ~ “And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

A. Children of God (2:28-3:3)

➤ To be a true child of God, one has not just to be born (physically) but “born again” (spiritually; see Jn.3:1-8). This spiritual rebirth comes only from the Father, through His Son and His Spirit, and not from any human merit, work, or ritual. A person is not saved by good works, but unto good works (see Eph.2:5, 8-10; Rom.3:20; Gal.2:16; Is.64:4).

John 1:11-13 ~ “He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹²But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

➤ Everyone who does not receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, rejects Him as Lord and Savior. There is no alternate choice, no middle-ground, no neutral territory. To “receive” (*lambano*) Jesus is more than simply believing that Jesus existed, or even believing in some of the things He said and did. To truly receive Jesus is to believe that He is the one and only Son of God, and the one and only Savior from God; it is to follow Him as Lord, and to love and worship Him as God.

Only those who truly “receive” Jesus in this way become Children of God: “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (Jn.1:12). Notice that it is Jesus who enables a person to be a child of God (1Jn.2:23; 5:12; cf. Jn.14:6). God graciously and permanently adopts those whom He has redeemed through Christ, given them the full rights and privileges as His children – “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Rom.8:17). As children adopted into God’s forever family, Christians can rightly call upon God as their heavenly Father – even their “Abba, Father!”

Gal 4:4-7 ~ “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” (see Rom.8:15, 23; Eph.1:5)

In his Gospel, words inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, the apostle John reemphasized this amazing truth in writing: “who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God” (Jn.1:13). This reiterates and clarifies that no one deserves to be saved, nor can anyone earn his/her salvation. People are not saved by their racial or ethnic heritage (“of blood”), nor are they saved by their own spiritual or moral effort (“of the will of the flesh”), nor are they saved by their own man-made religions or religious authorities (“of the will of man”). The only way to be saved is by God’s grace alone through faith alone Jesus Christ alone.

➤ As we turn to 1 John 2:28-3:10, we find the apostle John (writing words inspired by the Holy Spirit of God; 2Tim.3:16-17; 2Pet.1:21) identifying some of the differences between those who are children of God (those who are saved), and those who are children of the devil (those who are unsaved). Looking specifically at 1 John 2:28-3:3, we can identify five distinct characteristics of those who are truly children of God.

i. They unashamedly anticipate Christ’s Return (vs.28)

➤ Notice that John again referred to the recipients of this book/letter as “*little children*” (vs.28; see 2:1). This is not a patronizing term, but one that conveys John’s deep affection and pastoral care for these Christians. As he continues to exhort them to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, he also continues to encourage them as children of God.

➤ As we saw last Sunday, one amazing aspect of being a Christian is that every Christian is in the Triune God and the Triune God is in every Christian: “*the anointing that you received from him abides in you... abide in him*” (vs.27). Using the same phrase in verse twenty-eight, which in both verses is a command, we read: “*And now, little children, abide in him*” (vs.28). The command is to remain, stay, and live in Christ (see Jn.15:4). This means, among other things, that Christians are to be faithful to Christ – continuing to persevere, endure, and grow in and for Christ.

One reason why Christians are to abide in Christ: “*so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming*” (vs.28). The word “*confidence*” (*parrēsia*) could also be translated as boldness, assurance, or speaking freely. While the “*coming*” of Christ (referring to His Second Coming) is a terrifying reality for all unbelievers – as Christ will come to judge the world – true believers will “*not shrink ... in shame at his coming*”, because they are saved in Christ from the judgment to come (Rom.8:1-5). Because of God’s sovereign love and saving grace, true Christians actually look forward to – long for – the coming of Christ.

2 Tim 4:8 ~ “Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved [agapaō] his appearing.”

1 Peter 1:8-9 ~ “Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice [*agalliaō*] with joy [*chara*] that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

2 Cor 5:2 ~ “For in this tent we groan, longing [*epipotheō*] to put on our heavenly dwelling”

Heb 9:28 ~ “so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting [*apekdechomai*] for him.”

➤ Christians are not to have confidence in their own spiritual accomplishments or self-righteousness, but confidence in the fact that Christ (by God’s love) bore (by God’s mercy) the full penalty of their unrighteousness and imputed (by God’s grace) to them the fulness of His righteousness (2Cor.5:21). As Christians, we are to have confidence in the Lord’s coming knowing that – even with the coming of the antichrist, and the coming of many antichrists (2:18) – He has saved them and secured their salvation.

1 John 5:13 ~ “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”

1 Thess 3:13 ~ “so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”

1 Thess 5:23 ~ “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (see Phil.1:6; Col.1:22; Jd.1:24-25)

2. They seek to live according to Christ’s righteousness (vs.29)

➤ A second mark of those who are truly children of God is that they seek to live according to Christ’s righteousness. In other words, their confidence (vs.28) at His coming does not equate to a spiritual apathy or complacency in this life. Furthermore, those who are truly children of God pursue Christlikeness not worldliness (1Jn.2:15-17; Rom.6:1-2).

➤ We read this in verse twenty-nine: *“If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him”* (vs.29). The idea behind *“practi[ing]”* (*poieō*; to make or do) is to live a righteous life, by seeking to obey God’s commands. This, of course, does not mean that the Christian is perfect – or acts perfectly righteous – but that the righteousness of Christ is their sincere and passionate pursuit.

1 John 1:6 ~ “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

1 John 2:17 ~ “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

1 John 3:4 ~ “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.”

1 John 3:7 ~ “Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.”

1 John 3:8 ~ “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

1 John 3:10 ~ “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

➤ Those who are true children of God – those who are truly *“born of him”* (vs.29) – will seek to live in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Since they have the power and presence of God Holy Spirit indwelling them, they cannot continue to live a chronic life of unrepentant sin. Rather, as they grow and

mature in Christ, they will be convicted of sin and – through genuine confession and repentance – seek to live in obedience to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Phil 3:8-9 ~ “Indeed, I count everything as loss [*zēmia*] because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss [*zemioo*] of all things and count them as rubbish [*skybalon*], in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

- The word “loss” (*zemia*; vs.8^{2x}) carries with it the imagery of cargo of a ship that is lost or damaged at sea, or thrown overboard in an attempt to save a sinking ship, and the word “rubbish” (*skubalon*; vs.8; used only here) literally can be translated as what is thrown to dogs, or the excrement of animals (that which is given to dogs, or that which comes out of dogs). “Loss” is that which is dispensable, and “rubbish” is that which is (to put it mildly) disgusting.

3. They have received God’s gracious and salvific love through Christ (vs.1a)

- Another mark of a child of God is that they have received God’s gracious and salvific love through Christ. “*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are*” (vs.1a). The Greek word translated “*See*” (*idete*) means “behold” or “look”, and serves as an exclamation but also a command to be followed. It is as if John was bursting with praise and excitement to make such an (seemingly unbelievable) announcement!

The gracious and salvific love of God is truly amazing, as it is utterly undeserved and profoundly awesome. In fact, in his unbridled enthusiasm, John used a Greek word (*potapos*; only 7x in New Testament), translated “*what kind*” [“what sort” (NET); “how great” (NAS); “what manner” (KJV)], which could more literally be translated “of what country” – as if out of this world – beyond human explanation.

Matt 8:26-27 ~ “And [Jesus] said to [His disciples], ‘Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?’ Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷And the men marveled, saying, ‘What sort of man [*potapos*] is this, that even winds and sea obey him?’”

- The love that God has “*given to us*”, to give us the right to “*be called children of God*” (vs.1), is truly not from this world! God has not saved us because we were so loveable (because we are not); nor has He saved us because we deserved His love (because we do not); nor has He saved us hoping that we would somehow repay Him (because we cannot). Here is the simple, yet sacred, truth: God saved us because He loved us! Let that soak in.

John 3:16 ~ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Rom 5:8 ~ “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Eph 2:4-5 ~ “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved”

1 John 4:9-10 ~ “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

1 John 4:19 ~ “We love because he first loved us.”

- As mind-boggling as this truth is, John assures every true Christian that it is definitely true: “*and so we are*” (vs.1).

John 1:11-13 ~ “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

4. They embrace, identify with, the sufferings of Christ (vs.1b)

➤ A fourth mark of children of God is that they embrace the sufferings of Christ. Implicit in verse one is the sharp distinction between those who are children of God (those who are saved) and those who are children of the devil (those who are unsaved), those who are not of this world and those who are of this world: *“The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him”* (vs.1b).

As we have already seen in this book, the concept of *“world”* (*kosmos*) here does not mean the physical globe, or planet earth, as much as it refers to satanic powers and evil system which rebels against God and His will. In this verse, we see that *“the world”* refers to the devil’s rule in and over all unbelievers, and their opposition and even persecution of believers. For the Christian’s values, beliefs, passions, and priorities are confusing to the world and often diametrically opposed to that of those in the world.

➤ Consequently, Christians – who are in the world but not of the world – should not be surprised when they face opposition and persecution from the world (Acts 14:22; 1Pet.4:12; 2Tim.3:12-13). Rather than run from such sufferings, or caving into worldly pressure and worldliness, the Christian is called to embrace and identify with the same sufferings that Christ suffered.

Phil 3:10-11 ~ “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

John 15:18-21 ~ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.”

John 17:14-16 ~ “I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

John 18:36 ~ “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.’”

1 Peter 4:16 ~ “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.” (Acts 5:40-42)

➤ To be a Christian in a non-Christian world, is to be an alien and a stranger in this world. Christians are not to be “at home” in this world. They are to recognize that this world is under the rule of the evil one (1Jn.5:19), and is therefore operating contrary to the will and Word of Christ. Consequently, if we faithfully abide in Christ, we will often be in conflict with the world.

Heb 11:13-16 ~ “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.” (see 1Pet.1:1; 2:11)

Heb 11:35-38 ~ "... Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated – ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy – wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."

5. They find their ultimate hope in Christ (vs.2-3)

➤ Christians, however, need not be despondent or depressed. For their hope is in Christ, and their (eternal) home is far greater than anything that can be imagined.

Rom 8:18 ~ "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

2 Cor 4:17 ~ "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison"

Heb 11:24-27 ~ "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward."

➤ The apostle John reminds us of this great truth: "*Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is*" (vs.2). The Christian's eternal reward is eternal life in heaven, and unmitigated fellowship with God. This refers to our spiritual and eternal glorification (Rom.8:28-30). This is the "promise" of God (1Jn.2:25), and the "living hope" (1Pet.1:3), for every Christian.

Matt 5:8 ~ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Phil 3:20-21 ~ "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

1 Peter 1:3-5 ~ "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

1 Cor 13:12 ~ "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."

➤ In glory, after Christ "*appears*" in His Second Coming, all true believers will This glorification is described here as "*be like him, because we shall see him as he is*" (vs.2). While there is great mystery in this truth, beyond description, we know that it does not mean that we will become identical to God (i.e., sovereign, omniscient, omnipotent, etc.). Rather, Christians will be "*like him*" in that they will be immortal and sinless, without weakness, decline or any imperfection.

➤ How should we respond to such a promise in Christ? "*And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure*" (vs.3). As we have seen, a mark of a true Christian is seeking to live in the righteousness of Christ (1Jn.2:29). Knowing that Christ is coming again, and knowing that we will be glorified in Him, does not produce spiritual complacency nor immorality. Those who are truly children of God, by the righteousness of Christ, will reflect Christ's righteousness in how they live. Righteous living does not merit salvation, but is the evidence of it.

2 Peter 3:11-13 ~ “Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Conclusion

➤ Thank the Lord that we who were once children of wrath are now, in Christ, children of God.

1 John 3:1 ~ “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

➤ May we be ever-vigilant, ever-humble, to live out this reality for the glory of Christ – no matter the cost, no matter the sacrifice, no matter the consequence! May we, who are truly abiding in Christ) hold fast to the hope that we have in Christ, and may we know that Christ holds fast to us.

✓ Illust: Several years ago, Keith and Kristyn Getty remade an old hymn, “He Will Hold Me Fast.”

This song powerfully expresses both our dependence on Christ for perseverance, and the faithfulness of Christ in our perseverance. Let me encourage you to read the words of this hymn slowly and prayerfully (you can listen to this song by clicking [HERE](#)).

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast;
I could never keep my hold, Through life’s fearful path;
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast.

*Chorus: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast;
He’ll not let my soul be lost, His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

*Chorus: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast;
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast;
Till our faith is turned to sight, When he comes at last.

*Chorus: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

— Original Words vv 1-2 by Ada Habershon New Words and Music by Matt Merker
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