



**“The Incompatibility of Habitual Sin”**  
**Wk. 7 of Light and Love - 1 John 3:4-10**  
**By Pastor Jody May**

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**1 John 3:4-10 ESV**

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> No 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

**REVIEW:**

**LIGHT & LOVE**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Light** – Truth that stems from Christ and is sustained in Fellowship with each other.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Love** - Treasuring God and how we value each other.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Besides the love of coffee, being a morning person, and the love of violent sports my earthly father bequeathed unto me one more element, that can be traced to the May line, at the molecular level. This characteristic has made me coveted and sought after amongst the medical community, a rarity to say the least among all the people of the world. No, it is not the X gene, although some of you have thought perhaps, I was a mutant. No, I have the distinction of having the blood type **AB-** putting me in that less than 1% of our population that shares that distinction with me.

I have learned that this means my ancestors of European descent at some time mixed with the Mongol Hordes of Asia. That perhaps better explains my empathetic temperament. Be that as it may, what it does mean is that my



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blood is incompatible with other blood types. I can receive only from a select few but I can give only to AB people. Although when my blood type is separated and plasma is removed from the red blood cells, because there are no antibodies in my plasma, I can donate that part to anyone. Bottom line if I ever end up homeless, I can make money by selling my blood to the Red Cross they will at least always want that part of me. 😊

In much the same way, our passage is telling us today that when one is a child of God, one who is abiding in Christ, then that person has become incompatible with the majority of the world.

**6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.**

**9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him**

They have inherited at the spiritual level from their Heavenly Father, through His seed as Peter would say:

**1 Peter 1:23 ESV**

**since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;**

Being born again, as John describes in John 3, is a new heart that beats with the desire to do what God wants to do -what makes you ABIDE! Your spirit has become incompatible with sin, it rejects it, when it discovers the intrusion, your spiritual body will seek to destroy and dispel the foreignness of sin/you now have **spiritual antibodies**. The antibodies developed by your new heart **will not allow** the continual mixing of the worldly/fleshly sinful desires.

And just as **knowing your blood type** in the physical world is an important thing, knowing your spiritual heart is important too! When I travel and/or when I may have to have surgery the medical experts need to know my blood type for it may save my life OR it may save someone else’s’ life. In the same way you need to know your spiritual heart so that you know who you need to stay close to in case you need an infusion of spiritual life and/or you may be able to help someone that needs and infusion from you. Knowing your heart helps you to take care of yourself and others. John provides the litmus or the blood test, (the skin prick) if you will, for the Christian in v.10:



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**<sup>10</sup> 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...**

Whoever does not practice righteousness, is not off God, they are incompatible with you, they are the devil’s children!

The word **practice** there in v.10 comes from the Greek word **ποιέω** (*poieō*). **vb. to make, do.** *Describes the act of making, producing, or creating.*<sup>1</sup> It used over and over in our passage today, it is the ongoing action of doing a thing like you were doing it till you got it right. To practice something means you are committed to it, it’s not done haphazardly, it is intentional showing one’s dedication to the action. **The blood test, the DNA test, is to ask yourself do I continually and habitually continue to sin when I know better showing I prefer my will not His, the Devil’s goals, not God’s.**

Today, we need to talk about this incompatibility with lawlessness, do our lives reflect incompatibility with the rest of the world or are we showing we are still universal donors, (O+) which v. 4 tells you what that is:

**<sup>4</sup> Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.**

So, what does it mean when you get a little tainted by the world, when lawlessness has made its’ way into your bloodstream, when you have gotten some bad blood in you because that cannot remain? It means that the Christian’s spiritual body will eventually reject the taint of the world, and that those that *Practice* sinning know not God.

Because here’s the key to today’s text **Main Point:**

**Habitual Sin is Incompatible with the Christian Life.**

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<sup>1</sup> Peach, M. E. (2014). [Creation](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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John is going to lay out for us why we cannot be habitual (practicing) sinners and Christians at the same time, they don't mix! There are **3 reasons why** the two types of Spiritual DNA, cannot mix:

**1. Habitual Sin is incompatible with God's Law. (v.28)**

**<sup>4</sup> Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.**

1<sup>st</sup> John says **EVERYONE** – that is no one has an excuse, it doesn't matter if you are a politician, a peacekeeper, or the clergy, if you have habitual sin – you are practicing doing what you know is wrong you are practicing lawlessness.

That reminds me of this past year of the news that came out on well-known Apologist Ravi Zacharias<sup>2</sup> who died in 2020. After his death there was an investigation into his personal life where it was discovered that he had sexually abused multiple times over years numerous women. According to John, it is sad to say, he went out from us, but he was not of us, which goes to show you **it is not how much you know but do you practice what you know rightly**. Ravi practiced lawlessness, and as much as I hate to use him as an example that is a lesson for all of us that sin is incompatible with a changed heart, and Ravi has had to face Jesus with that false hood.

God's law does not allow for habitual sinners to be with God – *“For the wages of sin is death”* ([Rom. 6:23](#)). That's why John says in v.5 that Jesus came to take away sins, the root of them, He pulls out the whole heart to replace it with a new one ([Jer. 31:33](#)). While there is still bad blood in us, that heart over a while will begin to replace that bad DNA in your body. What is the expectation then for a Christian and his **incompatible new nature!**?

**Romans 6:1 ESV**

**6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?**

**<sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2021/february/ravi-zacharias-rzim-investigation-sexual-abuse-sexting-rape.html>



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Paul is definitely against the false gnostic teaching of free and cheap grace. **Ravi was abusing and using the evangelical new gnostic idea that I have prayed a prayer, I’m ok with God, He will accept my self-love over God-love...** Jesus did not come so we can keep sinning habitually He came to cut out that cancerous heart that wants that! Over time, through sanctification, your heart should produce righteousness because you are becoming like Him!

There is a profound change in the mind that happens, when one’s heart changes, when it is discovered that what you love is actually killing you. **(Illustration of the smokers)**

All of that to say, once your heart has been changed towards a thing it will usually begin to produce the opposite emotion towards that thing. The Christian Life, when one has gone through a true conversion, will turn from sin, and what a person once loved they will now begin to hate. It is not done perfectly, and usually it is not done immediately, but as that person is around other people with the same blood type, the old will begin to be burnt off. Habitual sin is incompatible with God’s Law for God’s law reflects His nature and what you should want to strive for...

## **2. Habitual Sin is incompatible with Christ’s Work. (vs.6-8)**

**<sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup>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<sup>st</sup>, The work of Christ is righteousness **“Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous” v. 7.** The Greek word is: δικαιοῦω (dik-ah-yo’-o) to make innocent by the act of Justice. Jesus’ work is the earning of righteousness through obeying God’s commands and then **“imputing”** that Righteousness to His people through faith as a gift. Righteousness is the business that Jesus is about, those who keep practicing sin are of the devil. Sin is lawlessness against God, it is work that goes against and undermines God’s rule. Therefore, when Jesus appeared on the scene, when He was incarnated into our world, He had a specific job; reinstitute the practice of **righteous living.** Part 1 is to take on the sins that His people have incurred:



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**John 1:29 ESV**

**<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**

1<sup>st</sup> things first, right away at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, God had JB point out that righteousness would **not come** through **Israel’s work**. That’s why John was baptizing, he was having them admit their guilt, their sin, and their need for the Messiah. He then gives the testimony that the Messiah has come to **remove their sin**. For the Christian we then, when we know Him, practice our own righteousness or **righteous living**. That means the first step for all believers is to believe, accept, and confess you are a sinner headed to Hell and you are only saved by Jesus’ imputed righteousness.

Secondly, the Bible clearly states that God has been in war with Satan since the beginning. Jesus’ business of reinstating **Righteous Living** put Him at odds with Satan. In [Luke 10:18](#) Jesus makes a statement when His 72 disciples return from the nearby towns praising God about being able to do miracles. Jesus says, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven.” Most likely referencing [Isaiah 14:12](#) referencing Satan’s initial defeat and removal from heaven.

The devil has been at war with God since before creation and it is Jesus’ job to put an end to Him, that is to do Righteousness, to not only fulfill the law but war with the Devil as he is the main adversary (He’s a warrior King). Jesus’ plan is to use the Devil’s schemes to reveal God’s Truth and then call the lost home.

The call of Jesus is to righteous living, not habitual sin. **Jesus cannot look like the devil, but the devil will try his hardest to disguise himself like Jesus.** But he’s sly about it. He will disguise his works in what looks like the fruit of the Spirit, but He will not connect them to God’s law because he is lawless. **(People magazine example)**

The Devil is all about making you feel guilty for not accepting the sin of other people because sinful living is making them happy (**smile!**). You see, the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control. ([Gal. 5:22-23](#)), cannot be fruit of the Spirit unless it is tied true Vine, God’s Law which reflects God’s holiness.



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**I Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV**

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Habitual sin is incompatible with the Works of Christ no matter what the world says, just because the devil says smile and let's take a picture showing your happiness, does not mean that was happiness born of Christ. **Christ came to destroy lawlessness not to praise it!** Your blood type does not receive the devil's blood type, it rejects it, meaning you should produce a smile that truly reflects Jesus. A smile that shows your rejection of the world and longs for what pleases God. Habitual sin is incompatible with the works of Christ but it is a sign though that the Devil still owns you.

**3. Habitual Sin is incompatible with the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. (vs.9-10)**

<sup>9</sup> **No 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.** <sup>10</sup> 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.

A few years earlier John wrote in His Gospel what this looks like:

**John 3:5-7 ESV**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

John records for us Jesus' teaching on the ministry of the HS. Jesus tells us there is a second birth, it happens at God's direction, and without it you cannot get into God's Kingdom, **“Righteous Living”**. Jesus, accepting God's Word as truth, is referring to the OT teaching of the New Covenant, brought to us by the min. of the HS.



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**Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV**

**<sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**  
**<sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

Again, this is the action Peter highlighted for us earlier from his letter:

**1 Peter 1:23 ESV**

**since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;**

So being born of God is having God deposit His Spirit in you, disabling the reproduction of sinful desires, giving you the antibodies to drive out foreign matter. God’s Spirit is what keeps you from being tainted and it becomes the blueprint for more reproduction of the same antibodies. You and I will now only reproduce a Spiritual Blood type, if you will, that will not be able to receive outside donors but will only be affected by like sources.

What’s more, if I could use the metaphor once more, like the patellids of AB-blood, we can give the good news of the Gospel to Everyone! We are not withheld from every doing that, in fact we are encouraged in the Gospel **to be blood donors** in that way. While only Jesus’ blood can save them by God’s decree, it is by our spiritual patellids that God brings about the desire for more in the hearts of mankind.

**CONCLUSION / RESPONSE:**

Let me conclude again with this truth:

**Habitual Sin is Incompatible with the Christian Life.**

Today, is there something that God has been showing you lately, that is a sin and you have been refusing to give that up. It has become habitual and because you are getting away with it you thought God was ok with it. That is what Ravi Zacharias thought, that is what Julie Rogers is thinking, but scripture says those





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that practice habitual lawlessness are still of the devil and their home will be with him in the end.

Is there something you are not wanting to change, a hardened heart towards a person, a small abuse against a family member, a bigotry you refuse to let go, whatever that is confess that to God today and practice righteousness in His name.

Do people know that you follow Christ not by the world’s definition of Jesus, but by how the scripture said He was? Do people call you a good Christian, a nice Christian, because you like what the world says we should like, pro-choice, pro-LGBTQ dispositions? Maybe today you have some things to straighten out with those that think you agree with the world’s definition of happiness. You now know about who the real Jesus is in scripture, correct their perceptions of you and Christ, just do it in love and patience.

Lastly, are you sharing with people that what you can offer, the patellids of the Gospel and are you rejecting the infusions of the world. Are you giving more of the gospel or taking more of the world in? The one way you stop by being tainted by the world is you pick to live a good righteous life for yourself and your neighbor and let them be blessed by your presence.

Let me exhort you with a friend of John today to encourage you in your quest to pursue righteousness:

**1 Peter 2:1-3 ESV**

**2 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.  
2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

If you have tasted then you know that the Lord is good, and you also know that lawlessness is incompatible with a palette that longs for the pure spiritual milk of Christ.



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**Prayer**

**Communion**

**Benediction**

Go in the name of the Father, that calls us to righteous living but graces us with His son’s righteous standing on our behalf.

Go in the name of the Son, that wars against the devil and His schemes and has secured victory through His sacrifices.

Go in the name and power of the HS, that has implanted God’s imperishable DNA into your soul enabling you to share the Gospel with others.