

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- 53, Fairest Lord Jesus
- 27, How Great Thou Art
- 61, My Jesus I love Thee
- Turn your eyes

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #10

Where's your compass pointing? Nurture His nature.

1 John 3:7-12

Sending prayer

Calendar:

October 15 6pm, Womens' dinner at Cassie Johnson's

RSVP Hannah today! 1001 Center Valley Rd, Willits

October 30, Church service and day at Hartstone

9am-after dinner, 3 meals incl.. Breakfast at 9am.

\$49/adult, \$39, 5 and under free. Make checks to

GBF with notation: "Hartstone." See Eric for details

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #10

Where's your compass pointing? Nurture His nature.

1 John 3:7-12

- October 9th, 2022 -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #10

Where's your compass pointing? Nurture His nature.

1 John 3:7-12

Compasses are curiously simply yet genius devices. When held upright and steady, they point to the magnetic north pole, and with that and a little knowledge, one can reliably find their way. But compasses are also easily upset. When un-level, or when vibrated or when around other magnetic sources they can point wrongly or swing wildly. To resolve this, one must hold it level and still and free of interference by magnets, and that needle will reliably, eventually point back north and one can find their way.



The key verse in this passage: v9

The key to unlocking the understanding of this passage is found in verse 9. "No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." It is key because it tells us where and in Whom true righteousness and spiritual power resides: In God. And in this case, in God the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer. John speaks of the *seed abiding*, and being *born of God*.

Let's look at those: **John 1:13, 2 Peter 1:4, Titus 3:3-6**

What's the point? The believer has been regenerated with a new, living seed. Adam and his spiritual death is displaced. There is new, life springing up in them and that new life is in the Person of God the Holy Spirit. As a result and in fact we have a new and different and spiritually energizing nature within us: as Peter says, the "divine nature"! *Wow!!! That's some encouraging power!*

Important: We must understand that God's divine nature indwelling us does not mean that we don't still have the flesh with it's fallen nature. That nature will never change nor improve until the rapture when we put off these bodies. So when John speaks in v9 and in the surrounding verses about the "one born of God" and "cannot sin" he is talking about the aspect of the believer that is regenerated, not about the flesh and it's nature. *The divine nature cannot ever sin. It is holy and pure. But the flesh can and still does.*

Check out **Romans 7:18-25, Galatians 2:20**



A caution about emphasis! There is an approach, a well established approach, to 1 John and this passage in particular that was popularized around 1907, and that is the "Tests of Life" approach. This says that *if you habitually sin and if you don't habitually walk in holiness*, then you've failed the tests of life... you're not born again. The problem is, "what is habitual"? How much sin? How much holiness? I think this turns 1 John and John's intention in writing on it's head. It also leads to uncertainty, doubt and being judgmental of others. It leads to excess introspection instead of appreciation and focus on Christ Jesus our Savior and friend. 1 John 5:13 sets out John's positive, assuring purpose. That we who believe might know that we have eternal life!

So I think a *proof of life* approach better reflects John's intent, and it is a theology of encouraging assurance and rest, and by it John also leads us to spiritual maturity and solidity rather than doubt about our salvation.

Here's how it works: Think of the compass needle pointing north. That is the divine nature in us. It WANTS to point north, to true holiness and righteousness and pure love. But we are yet in the flesh and filled with distractions and vibrations within and without us. These unsettle and spin the needle. But if you ever, and at various points in life have found that when you stop and focus on the needle, it points north, to God, His holiness and truth... And when that happens you walk in holiness and truth, sin is not in sight, and you bear the spiritual fruit especially of love. That is a proof of life! Eternal life within! That is very assuring! We know by a fuller experience that we are indwelt by God!



The trick birthday candle illustration
