

# CERTAIN ETERNITY



THE LETTER OF FIRST JOHN

*Thank you, Mothers! We Love You!*

SERMON OUTLINE

I. PURITY (1 JOHN 3:3)

II. PRACTICE (1 JOHN 3:4)

III. POINTS OF PRACTICE (1 JOHN 3:5-10)



SEE 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. 2 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. 3 AND EVERYONE WHO THUS HOPES IN HIM PURIFIES HIMSELF AS HE IS PURE.

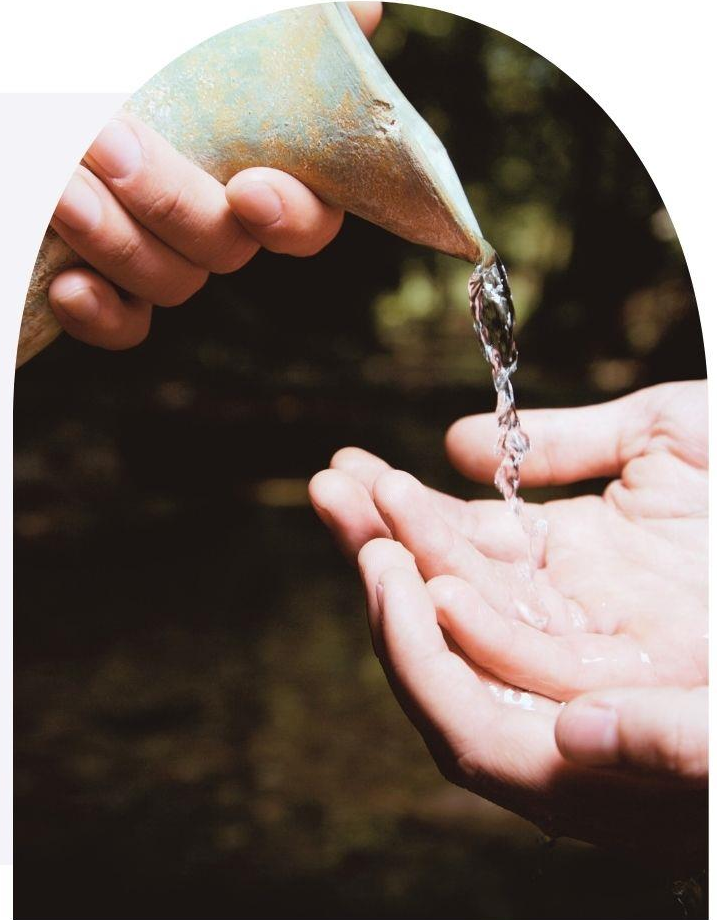
1 JOHN 3:1-3

## PURITY

# Purifies

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GK. hagnizō from hagnos (pure) = freedom from defilements or impurities; see also word study on related word hagios = holy, saint refers to cleansing oneself from defilement (literal meaning often had ritual cleansing in mind)





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“[The child of God] actively, personally, prayerfully, intensely, continually, aims at the purification of himself, looking to God for aid. Some defile themselves willfully. Some take things as they are. Some believe that they need to do purifying. Some talk about purity, but never strive after it. Some glory in that which is a mere counterfeit of it. The genuine Hoper does not belong to any of these classes: he really and successfully purifies himself.”

*C.H. Spurgeon*

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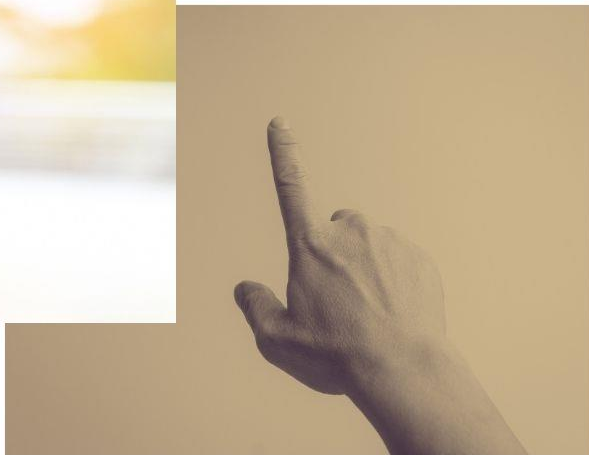


## Practical Process of Pursuing Purity

- By getting a clear notion of what purity really is.
- By keeping a tender conscience, and bemoaning his faults.
- By having an eye to God and his continual presence.
- By making others his beacons or examples.
- By hearing rebukes for himself, and laying them to heart.
- By asking the Lord to search him, and practicing self-examination.
- By distinctly and vigorously fighting with every known sin.

*C.H. Spurgeon*





Note that [John] is not saying believers never sin (as some have falsely interpreted this passage), but just that this is not the direction of their life. Nor is he saying that their pursuit of holiness results in perfection, but that it does demonstrate the general "direction" of their life.



*Steven Cole*

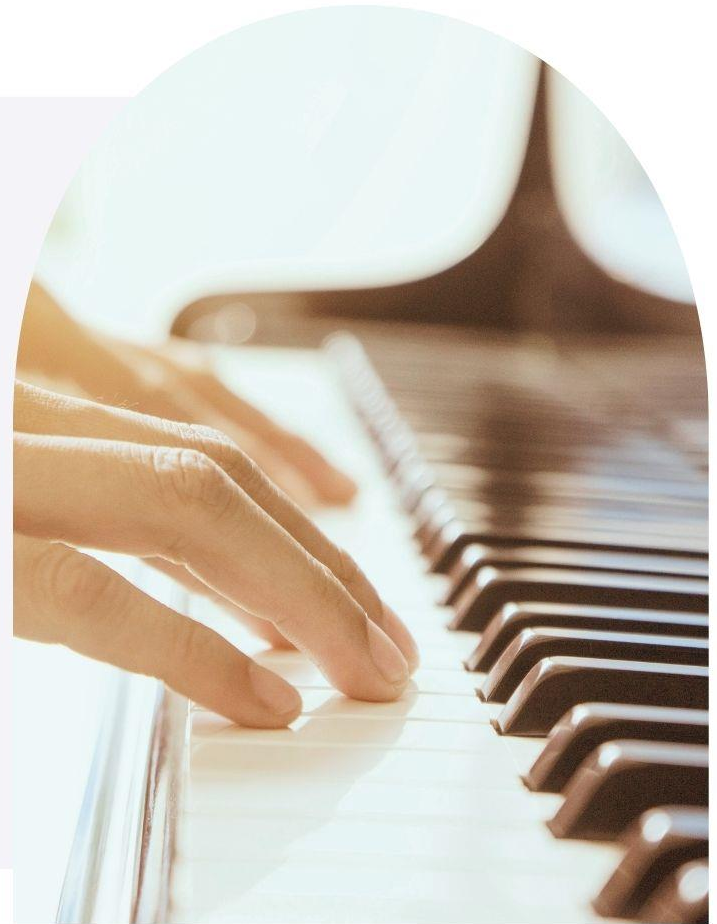
## PRACTICE

# Practices

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

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Gk. poieō literally, to do a thing. Present tense verb (i.e. ongoing action) the deliberate, knowing, ongoing habit, pattern, or lifestyle of a person





## PRACTICE

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“He says here we’re not talking about sin as a violation, we’re talking about sin as an attitude. Everyone doing sin, practicing sin is engaged in practicing lawlessness. And lawlessness is an attitude. It is not so much the transgression of the Law, as the indifference to the Law. Construction here makes sin and lawlessness identical. It’s living as if there is no Law. It’s living as if there is no law-giver.”

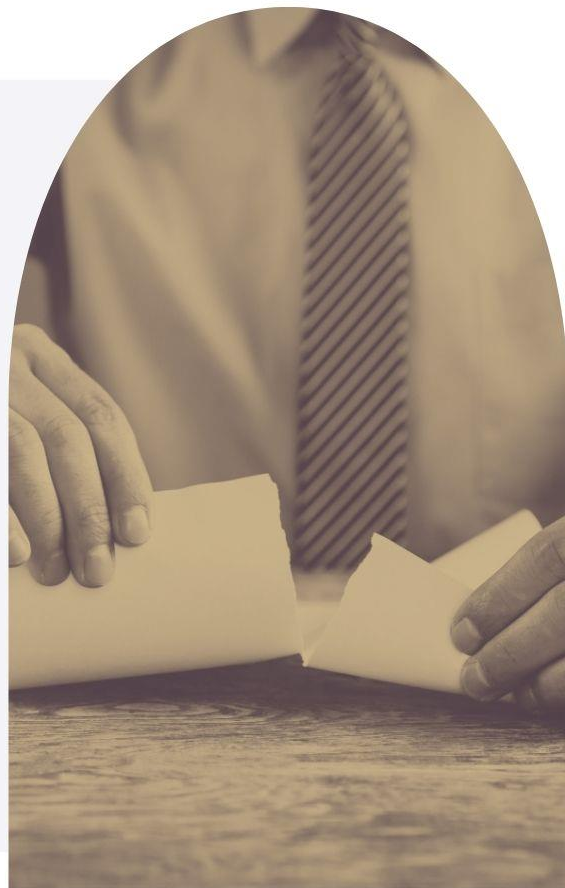
*John MacArthur*

## PRACTICE

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Lawlessness is living as though your own ideas are superior to God's. Lawlessness says, "God may demand it, but I don't prefer it"; Lawlessness says, "God may promise it, but I don't want it." Lawlessness replaces God's law with my contrary desires. I become a law to myself. Lawlessness is rebellion against the right of God to make laws and govern his creatures... The work of Satan is to tempt us to reject the authority of God and become like God ourselves. Satan works to nurture and cultivate the pride that puts its own desires above the law of God. This is lawlessness; this is the essence of sin; and this is what the Son of God came to destroy in you and me.

*John Piper*





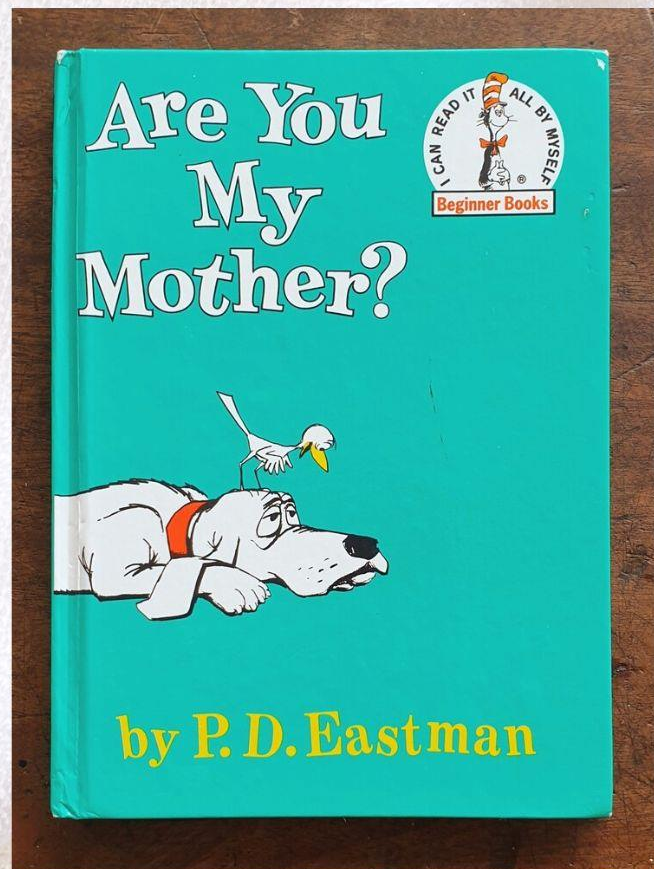
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21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ... 23 ... 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

Matthew 7:21, 23

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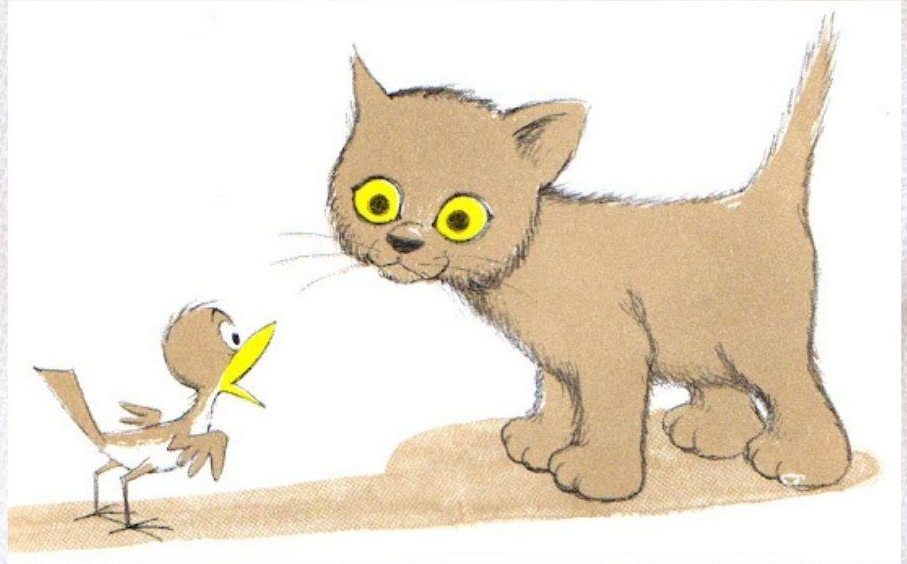
Points  
of  
Practice





Who do we stick close to (abide)?

<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;  
1 John 3:5, 6a



Who do we watch (see and know) ?

no one who keeps on  
sinning has either  
seen him or known  
him. 1 John 3:6b





# Who do we trust (deception of doubt)?

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 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 3:7-8



# Who do we emulate (righteousness/lawlessness of our family)?

<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.

1 John 3:9-10







## *Points of Practice*

- Who do we stick close to (abide)?
- Who do we watch (see and know)?
- Who do we trust (deception of doubt)?
- Who do we emulate  
(righteousness/lawlessness of our family)?