

1 John 3:4-3:10 (Of God or of the devil?)

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning since the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 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. 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.

Talk is cheap (v7).

*Three-legged stool of Christian confidence: **moral test (v10)**, relational test and doctrinal test.*

1. Sin is Serious (SS)	
Sin is lawlessness (v4)	Sin is of the devil (v8a)
2. Messiah’s Mission (MM)	
Messiah came to take away sins (v5)	Messiah came to destroy the works of the devil (v8b)
3. Christianity Check (CC)	
No one who “keeps on” sinning knows Jesus (v6)	No one born of God “keeps on” sinning (v9)

A warning or an encouragement?

But do not forget: But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 2:1-2)