

**THE SIGNIFICANCE**  
**OF HABITUAL SIN**  
**I John 3:4-10**

**What should we conclude about the practice of habitual sin?**

**I. HABITUAL SINNERS DEFY GOD (4)**

**A. THE PRACTICE OF SIN IS LAWLESSNESS**

- We determine to go our own selfish and self-satisfying way

**B. THE LAWGIVER IS GOD**

- And keeping His commands is important (2:3, 3:22, 5:2)

**C. THE LAWLESS REBELS AGAINST GOD**

1. He demonstrates a direct and deliberate disregard for God's will and standards
2. In doing so we miss God's mark - Rom. 3:23

**II. HABITUAL SINNERS DISREGARD CHRIST (5-6)**

**A. TAKING PART IN WHAT CHRIST TOOK AWAY (5)**

1. Christ's Presence: He appeared on this earth
2. Christ's Purpose: Take away sin by His death on the cross - Col. 2:13-14
3. Christ's Purity: Himself sinless and therefore untainted by it

**B. FAKING THEIR FELLOWSHIP (6)**

1. The sinning aren't abiding
2. The sinning haven't seen Christ
3. The sinning haven't known Christ
4. Application: It's hard to be a consistent hypocrite!

### III. HABITUAL SINNERS DANCE WITH THE DEVIL (7-8)

#### A. THE TRUTH (7b-8)

1. The righteous practice righteousness (7b)
2. The unrighteous practice sin (8)
  - a. They associate with Satan
  - b. They are active in what Christ abolishes

#### B. THE TASK: Don't be deceived (7a)

1. Some were promoting an indifference about sinful behavior and righteousness
2. Some were in danger of being influenced by the indifferent

### IV. HABITUAL SINNERS DENY REGENERATION (9-10)

#### A. THE REALITY (9)

1. Born again ones don't habitually sin
  - See Romans 6:11-14 and 17-18
2. God's seed and sin cannot coexist

#### B. THE REVELATION (10)

1. To whom we belong is obvious
  - a. Godliness and devilishness are not hard to differentiate
  - b. App: We don't hide as cleverly as we think we do!
2. Behavior demonstrates identity
  - Unrighteousness + Unlovingness = Ungodliness

### CONCLUSION:

#### **How does John's text affect you?**

1. Are you convicted? Get saved!
2. Are you confused? Get right!
3. Are you committed? Stay right!