

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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4/28/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part  
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## **Theology vs. Application**

Theology lays out principles. Life is where those principles are applied. The Bible gives us insight into both. The common error is to make theology out of human experiences recorded in scripture. (e.g., Job's wife, the Corinthian's failures, etc.)

### **On 1Jn 3:4-6**

- C. I. Scofield: *"[John] is stressing the fact that a Christian cannot keep on practicing sin, because he is born of God."*
- J. V. McGee: *"If you can be happy in sin, my friend, then you are not God's child because God's children have the nature of their Father."*
- J. MacArthur: *"If no check against habitual sin exists in someone who professes to be a Christian, John's pronouncement is absolutely clear - salvation never took place."*

### **1Jn 3:6 Theology**

Believers abide. No believer's lifestyle is characterized by sin. Anyone who does live that way is not a believer.

### **W. MacDonald on 1Jn 3:6**

*The question naturally arises, "When does sin become habitual? How often does a person have to commit it for it to become characteristic behavior?" John does not answer this. Rather he puts each believer on guard, and leaves the burden of proof on the Christian himself.*

### **Theology 101**

When it comes to theology, you must accept the openness of it at face value. If something is stated clearly, then you must accept it on faith, regardless of whether it is something you can personally relate to.

### **Conclusions**

In THEOLOGY, man has every right to say that a person who is saved will bear good fruit! In PRACTICE, man never has the right to judge someone else's salvation status.

### **Keeping It Simpler**

There's enough theology, proper, to occupy us for the rest of our lives. We do not

need to add complexity by manufacturing doctrines as a result of observing the actions of others, even if we are reading about them in the Bible.

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### **1Th 4:8**

*So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.*

### **Walking (ala Col 1:10)**

God has empowered us to "do" His commands - that's "walking". It's by grace through faith that we do so.

### **Supernatural Walking**

Thank God we can't "figure Him out", for if we could, what would happen? (e.g.: Gideon Jdg 7:2)

### **Supernatural Walking**

Do you have to "try" to "be" grateful? No - you can be reminded of things to be grateful "for", but GOD is the one who GIVES us the ability to "be" grateful - that's true grace. If you "try" to "be" something you're not, you're a hypocrite (Ro 12:9).

### **Supernatural Walking**

If it's a struggle to walk, or you're frustrated, something's wrong - you're likely rejecting grace in arrogance. ("For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome" (1Jn 5:3).)