

## Expanded Report: Hold Fast to the Doctrine of Christ (2 John 1:8-9)

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### Prologue: The Importance of Holding to the Truth

As the family gathered for their evening study, Ryan opened the Bible to 2 John 1:8-9. In this passage, John encourages believers to hold fast to the teachings of Christ, warning that abandoning the doctrine of Christ leads to a loss of fellowship with God. He stresses the importance of remaining faithful to the truth of the gospel, as it is the foundation of the Christian faith. If we stray from these teachings, we forfeit the fellowship we have with God, and ultimately, we cannot claim to know Him.

“Tonight, we’re going to look at how important it is to stick to the truth of what we believe about Jesus,” Ryan said. “John warns us not to abandon the teachings of Christ, because if we do, we lose everything that makes us Christians.”

Ariel, curious, asked, “What does it mean to ‘abide in the doctrine of Christ’?”

“That’s a great question,” Ryan said. “Abiding in the doctrine of Christ means holding firmly to everything the Bible teaches about who Jesus is—His life, His death, His resurrection, and His role as the Savior. It’s not just about agreeing with certain parts, but embracing the whole truth about Christ.”

Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter, asked, “So, if someone says Jesus is just a good teacher but not God, is that wrong?”

“Yes, Alice,” Ryan replied. “Anyone who doesn’t believe that Jesus is both God and man is not teaching the truth about Christ. And John says that if we don’t hold fast to that truth, we’re not truly connected to God.”

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### Key Teachings: Holding Fast to the Doctrine of Christ

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#### 1. The Danger of Abandoning the Truth

##### 2 John 1:9

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

- **The Consequences of Straying from the Truth:**

Ryan explained, “John is very clear here—if someone doesn’t hold to the truth of who Christ is, if they stray from the teachings of the gospel, they have no true relationship with God. They may say they believe in God, but if they reject the truth about Jesus, they’re not truly connected to Him.”

Ariel asked, “So, it’s not just about believing in God, but about believing the right things about Jesus?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Belief in God without the truth about Jesus is incomplete. Jesus is the way to God, and we can’t know God apart from knowing the truth about His Son.”

- **The Foundation of Our Faith:**

Ryan continued, “Our faith is built on the doctrine of Christ—His divine nature, His death for our sins, and His resurrection. If we abandon any part of this, we are stepping away from the very foundation of our faith.”

Yaya added, “This is why it’s so important to understand who Jesus truly is. He’s not just a teacher or a prophet—He’s the Son of God, and that truth is what gives us access to the Father.”

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## **2. The Assurance of Fellowship with God**

### **2 John 1:9**

“He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

- **The Blessing of Holding Fast to the Truth:**

Ryan explained, “On the flip side, those who hold firmly to the doctrine of Christ have fellowship with both the Father and the Son. When we believe and hold fast to the truth about Jesus, we’re not just believing in a set of ideas—we’re entering into a relationship with God Himself.”

Ariel asked, “So, holding to the truth about Jesus is how we stay close to God?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Our relationship with God is tied to our relationship with Jesus. If we abandon the truth about who Jesus is, we lose the connection to the Father.”

- **The Importance of Doctrine for Fellowship:**

Ryan continued, “Doctrine is not just a bunch of theological facts—it’s the foundation of our relationship with God. Our understanding of Jesus is what keeps us connected to God. That’s why John is so insistent on holding fast to it.”

Yaya added, “Fellowship with God is a gift, but it comes through the truth of who Jesus is. That’s why we must be careful about what we believe and make sure it aligns with the gospel.”

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## **3. The Key Teaching: Steadfast Adherence to the Gospel**

### **Key Teaching:**

The key teaching of this passage is that believers must hold fast to the doctrine of Christ—everything that the Bible teaches about His identity, His work, and His role as Savior. If we stray from this truth, we forfeit fellowship with God. Our relationship with the Father and the Son is dependent on the truth about Jesus. This teaching highlights the centrality of Christ in the Christian faith. He is not just a part of our belief system; He is the foundation.

Ryan summarized, “John is making it clear that our faith in Jesus and our understanding of who He is determines our relationship with God. If we stray from that truth, we cannot claim to know God. But if we remain steadfast in the gospel, we have fellowship with both the Father and the Son.”

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## **Practical Applications: Holding Fast to the Truth of Christ**

The family discussed how they could apply these teachings in their lives:

### **1. Knowing the Truth of Who Jesus Is:**

Ariel suggested, “I can read the Bible every day to make sure I know the truth about Jesus and who He really is.”

Alice added, “When I hear someone say something about Jesus, I can check if it matches what the Bible says.”

### **2. Staying Connected to God Through Jesus:**

Ryan encouraged them, “We need to make sure we are always connected to the truth about Jesus. We can’t just believe part of what the Bible says about Him—we need the full picture of who He is, as the Son of God and our Savior.”

### **3. Sharing the Truth with Others:**

Yaya reminded them, “We can also share the truth about Jesus with others, especially when we hear false teachings. The gospel is not just for us—it’s for the whole world.”

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## **Takeaway: Standing Firm in the Truth of Christ**

As the family reflected on this passage, Ryan shared a personal story about a time when a friend’s beliefs about Jesus started to deviate from what the Bible teaches. “I had a conversation with a friend who started believing that Jesus wasn’t fully God. I gently reminded them of what the Bible teaches about Jesus being both God and man, and we spent time discussing the truth.”

Ariel smiled, “So, when we talk to others, we can share the truth and make sure it matches God’s Word?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “We need to stand firm in what we know is true about Jesus. And when we share it with others, we do it with love and care.”

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## **Key Points Summary**

### **1. The Importance of Holding Fast to the Doctrine of Christ:**

- Believers must hold fast to the full truth about Jesus Christ. Straying from this doctrine results in losing fellowship with God.

### **2. Fellowship with God is Tied to Christ’s Truth:**

- Our relationship with God is grounded in the truth of who Jesus is. We cannot know the Father apart from knowing the Son.

### **3. Steadfast Adherence to the Gospel is Essential:**

- To remain in fellowship with God, believers must remain firm in the gospel, standing on the truth of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior.
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**Key Verse:**

**“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.”** (2 John 1:9)

This passage teaches us the crucial importance of holding fast to the truth about who Jesus is. Only by standing firm in this doctrine can we remain in fellowship with God and experience His grace. The truth of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith and our connection to God.