

# Does Your Walk Match Your Talk?

(1 John 3:4– 3:9)

## What is True & What to Do:

*True Christians practice righteousness and do not remain in a perpetual lifestyle of sin without concern for doing the right thing. Therefore, do not be deceived: know that the Son of God (Jesus Christ) came to destroy the works of the devil and take away sins, meaning that those truly born again should not keep on living in a patterned life of sin.*

### 1.) EVERYONE who keeps on living a sinful lifestyle also practices lawlessness; lawless behavior is sin (v. 4–5).

- The false teachers John is combatting were teaching false doctrine concerning sin (they were indifferent to it) and so in verses 4–5, John defines both the problem and the solution.
  - Problem: Sin violates the law of God; sinners are lawless.
  - Solution: Jesus came to take away sins; He is sinless.
- The original in v. 4 reads: “Everyone who keeps on doing the sin also keeps on doing the lawless deeds; and the sin is the lawlessness.”
  - Bible translations that say “practices” or “commits” sin in v. 4 (e.g. NASB95, CSB, ESV, and NKJV, others) seek to convey the continual, ongoing, nature of the problem given in the original language without being too wordy. The problem is this: a lifestyle patterned by ongoing sinful behavior.

### 2.) “How can you tell a Christian from a non-Christian?” (v. 6, 9)

- Answer: Nobody (no exceptions) who keeps on living in a sinful lifestyle knows Jesus Christ; such people are not Christ-followers.
- The Christian attitude towards sin is important; true believers cannot be indifferent to sin given Christ’s spirit indwells within. Your talk must match your walk! Verse 9 portrays the final and complete nature of the new birth (there’s no initial, partial, progressive birth, or falling away). You are fully re-made in Christ!
- State of purity ≠ maintained condition of purity; John tells us that we are not sinless in 1 John 1:8–10, 11. See Ro. 6 and 7.
- Not to know Christ in verse 6 describes someone who is not genuinely saved.

- Christians depend upon Christ’s presence (Holy Spirit) in their life to counteract the constant temptation to sin. The telling sign is what one practices: a life that practices doing right or keeps on sinning without regard for God.
- Sin should be the exception and not the rule. If sin is the rule, you have not been born of God.
- Genuine Christians do not want to sin; In other words, no one born of God makes a practice of sinning.

### 3.) So, what do you practice? What characterizes your life? Doing right according to God, or doing sin in disdain for God? (7–9)

- An emphatic command: “May it never be that anyone deceives you!” (v. 7)
  - What sin is: lawlessness (v.4); it is willful rejection and self-chosen disobedience to God.
  - What sin does: sin undermines a person’s ongoing communion with God; sin separates us from God.
  - False teachers are behind the idea(s) that someone can be born again, yet live in a continuously sinful lifestyle; or that someone reaches a state of sinless perfection. False!
  - We should not rate the gravity of sin by its visible consequences.
  - The source of habitual sin is Satan (see v. 8 and Jn. 8:44); he seeks to destroy you (Heb. 2:14).
- For the first seven times in the letter, Jesus is referred to as the Son of God (v. 8);
- “Seed of God” is the divine nature, Holy Spirit, which inhibits a lifestyle of sin in anyone who is truly born again (v.9).

## APPLICATION:

- ✓ Repent of your sins. Live your life as a child of God. Act like it.
- ✓ Do not be deceived by those saying, “I am a Christian” (full well knowing their unrepentant lifestyle comes with no concern for God).
- ✓ Ask yourself: Are you heartbroken when you sin? Does the pattern of love and obedience mark you as a true Christ-follower?