

**HOW DO I KNOW
I'M A FOLLOWER
OF CHRIST?**



**FOLLOWER'S
COURSE 101**

HOW DO I KNOW I'M A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST? (PART TWO)

SIGNS AND EVIDENCES:

I KNOW I AM A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST BECAUSE:

C. A NEW CONVICTION OF SIN

1 JOHN 3:9 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

No one who is born of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, because God's seed [His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character] remains [permanently] in him [who is born again—who is reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]; and he [who is born again] **cannot habitually** [live a life characterized by] sin, because he is born of God and **LONGS to PLEASE HIM**.

1 JOHN 1:5-8 GWT

5 This is the message we heard from Christ and are reporting to you: God is light, and there isn't any darkness in him. 6 If we say, "We have a relationship with God" and yet **live in the dark**, we're lying. We aren't being truthful.

7 But if we **live in the light** in the same way that God is in the light, we have a relationship with each other. And the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from every sin. 8 If we say, "We aren't sinful" we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

John makes a contrast here between **TWO WAYS OF LIVING**:

- The first way is "LIVING in darkness" which is not real fellowship with God.
- The second way, which he calls "LIVING in the light", is true fellowship with God.

"It is true that people who don't know Christ, people who are not Christians, haven't really come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ feel guilt, feel bad about doing bad very often because doing bad creates bad circumstances. But they do not understand the true weight of sin. Because they do not understand the law of God, nor do they love the God they have offended. But a believer, one who has come to know God, has a great sensitivity to sin. He is not indifferent to sin, but hypersensitive to it."

(John F. MacArthur, pastor)

WE DON'T WANT TO CONTINUE SINNING BECAUSE WE ARE NOW MORE CONCERNED ABOUT NOT GRIEVING THE HEART OF GOD, THE GOD WE LOVE .

"God would never save us by grace so we could live in disgrace."



PHIL 2:12-13 LIVING BIBLE TRANSLATION

12 Dearest friends, when I was there with you, you were always so careful to follow my instructions. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to do the good things that result from being saved, obeying God with deep reverence, shrinking back from all that might displease him. **13** For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants.

1 JOHN 1:9-10 GWT

9 God is faithful and reliable. If we CONFESS (*not hide or not excuse or not justify*) our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong.

10 If we say, "We have never sinned," we turn God into a liar and his Word is not in us.

HEBREWS 12:5-11 EASY TO READ

5 "My child, don't think the Lord's discipline is worth nothing, and don't stop trying when he corrects you.

6 The Lord disciplines everyone he loves; he punishes everyone he accepts as a child."

7 So accept sufferings like a father's discipline. God does these things to you like a father correcting his children. You know that all children are disciplined by their fathers. **8** So, if you never receive the discipline that every child must have, you are not true children and don't really belong to God. **9** We have all had fathers here on earth who corrected us with discipline. And we respected them. So it is even more important that we accept discipline from the Father of our spirits. If we do this, we will have life. **10** Our fathers on earth disciplined us for a short time in the way they thought was best. But God disciplines us to help us so that we can be holy like him. **11** We don't enjoy discipline when we get it. It is painful. But later, after we have learned our lesson from it, we will enjoy the peace that comes from doing what is right.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When you've sinned or made a mistake in the past, how do you typically deal with it?
2. What's the biggest obstacle to confessing your sin to God and others?