

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

# Is God Your Father?



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Honestly, it isn't too hard to tell if someone is a Christian or not.


Spiritually speaking, we look like our father. Now, it isn't always obvious at any given moment. We all make mistakes and you could take snap shots of my life when my attitude or my actions do not look very Christ like. But, if you were watching a video of my life instead of single snap shots you should see evidence that God is my Father. It's the same for unbelievers. There will be snap shots where they look really good, or even righteous. But if you watched a video you would know before long God is not their Father.

## Directions

### OBSERVE

Read 1 John 3: 4-10:

Mark each reference to *sin* with a circle and a slash 

Mark each reference to *righteousness* with a circle 

Mark each reference to *practices* with a square. 

Underline the phrases *children of God* and *children of the devil.*

## 1 John 3:4-10

- 4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.
- 5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.
- 6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.
- 7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;
- 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
- 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
- 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

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## DISCUSS

What do you learn about sin in these verses?

Who are the two family groups identified in these verses?

What are the characteristics of each family?

How does the word practices help you understand the pattern or consistency of sin or righteousness?

## APPLICATION

Looking at your own life, who's your daddy? Becoming a Christian brings about a lifestyle change. This is not because we are suddenly trying harder to be good, but it is because we have a new heart. Our family DNA has been changed. When we surrender our life to Christ we are linked with His death (Romans 6:3). But, the story doesn't end there. We are also united with Him in his burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4) so that we to now walk in newness of life. Or to put it another way, we are now born again into a whole new life. What does this new creature look like? Well, typically they walk in righteousness.

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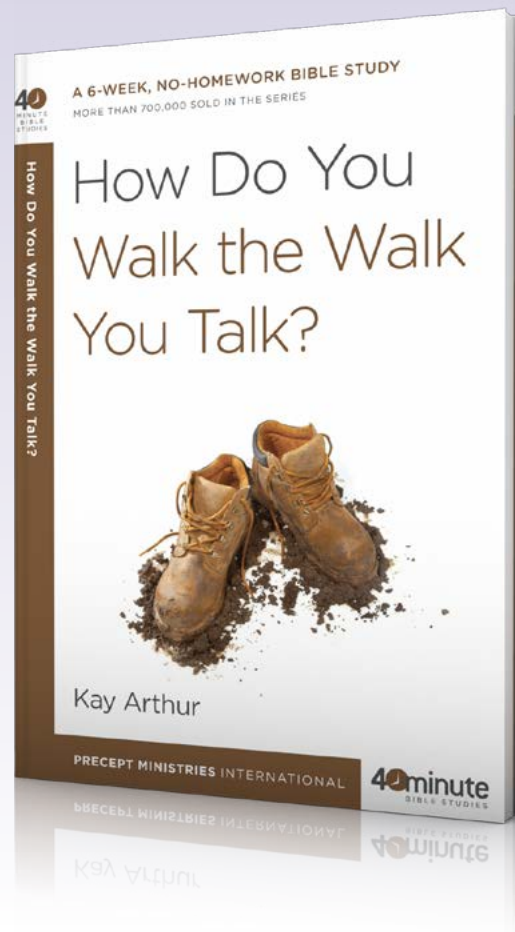
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