

## Am I Really a Christian? Week 3

### Part 1: What Team Are You On?

*An observation: When I used to go Angels games, because I was holy, of course, I used to see all kinds of people wearing jerseys for their favorite teams even if the team wasn't playing that day. They loved to show off what team their hearts belonged to. We do the same thing (figuratively) when it comes to religion: the jersey we wear shows very clearly our allegiance.*

The Bible says that Jesus' sacrifice enables us to become "Children of \_\_\_\_\_" where once we were "children of the \_\_\_\_\_."

Sin for someone who claims to be a Christian is a strange kind of \_\_\_\_\_. It is taking Satan's side in \_\_\_\_\_ against God, even though you're saying you're on God's side.

Don't misunderstand. All Christians continue to \_\_\_\_\_ with sin.

But the Bible also suggests that, if your life continues to be characterized by a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward sin, you should stop and think about what you really are.

Never mind what jersey you think you're \_\_\_\_\_. Who are you really \_\_\_\_\_ for?

If it's mostly for the other team, maybe you really belong to their roster, after all.

Here's another way to put it: you are \_\_\_\_\_ a Christian if you love sin.

"If claiming to be a Christian meant personal transformation, our world would be a far different place." - Mike Mikalatos, Night of the Living Dead Christian

### Part 2: Father of Lies or Abba Father

*A question: Who's your daddy?*

Salvation is a radical, once and for all team swap from the Devil's team of sin to God's team of perfection.

John says we've not just joined a new team, but a new \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 3):

(1) See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called \_\_\_\_\_ of God! And that is what we are!

(2,3) Dear friends, now we are \_\_\_\_\_ of God... All who have this hope in him \_\_\_\_\_ themselves, just as he is pure.

John also explains the differences between the two families:

(6) No one who lives in [Jesus] keeps on \_\_\_\_\_. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

(7) Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is \_\_\_\_\_ is righteous, just as he is righteous.

(8) The one who does what is \_\_\_\_\_ is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

(9) No one who is born of God will \_\_\_\_\_ to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

(10) This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is \_\_\_\_\_ is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

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**You Are Not a Christian  
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Additional Reading

Am I Really a  
Christian? By Mike  
McKinley

Night of the Living  
Dead Christian by  
Matt Mikalatos

Unrealistic expectations? There is no way we humans can stop sinning, right?

Absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.

We're gonna sin. The issue is our \_\_\_\_\_ towards that \_\_\_\_\_ sin.

Let's clarify what the Bible means by interpreting this passage using the Synergistic Principle, which means that the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

If sinners are children of the Devil, then we can understand what is meant by sinning by looking at the Devil's \_\_\_\_\_.

Sin is the Devil's \_\_\_\_\_. He is God's enemy, and he's been "sinning from the beginning," says John. Since the garden of Eden, Satan has been busy spreading sin throughout the world God has created. He lied and tempted Adam and Eve to rebel against God's authority. This sin spread to the next generation, and Cain murdered Abel. And so on.

Within a few short chapters of Genesis, we have taken a roller-coaster ride from a creation that pleases God to a creation that God wants to destroy because, "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time (Genesis 6:5).

That is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan's labor.

That is how the Devil sins: over and over and takes \_\_\_\_\_ in it.

(Is that how you sin?)

"People are always doing things and saying afterward, 'Oh, that's not like me.' Except that it is like them. It's precisely like them, because they are the ones who did it." - Matt Mikalatos, Night of the Living Dead Christian

Remember according to 1 John 3, Jesus came to was "to \_\_\_\_\_ the works of the devil" (8) and "he appeared to take \_\_\_\_\_ sins" (5).

Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan. To destroy sin.

People on his team would do the \_\_\_\_\_.

People on the Devil's team, not so much. Check out 1 John 3:8 in other translations to get a fuller picture of what John is saying here:

"But when people \_\_\_\_\_ sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil" (NLT)

"Whoever makes a \_\_\_\_\_ of sinning is of the devil" (ESV)

Sin is the \_\_\_\_\_ mark of the Devil's child. The real mark of the Beast.

The children of the Devil make a practice of sinning because that's what their father the Devil does. There's no way around it: it's a \_\_\_\_\_ resemblance.

Before we become followers of Christ, we are all \_\_\_\_\_ to sin. We cannot do otherwise because sin is part of who we are.

When we are transferred from Satan's family and adopted into God's family, our relationship to sin \_\_\_\_\_.

Before, we were motivated and controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_ for sin. Now, we live by God's Spirit. Sin does not have the same power to control or move us. Its power is \_\_\_\_\_.

"Don't say after your mouth runs off that you couldn't stop yourself. It's not true because you don't do it on the church foyer." - Barbie Loflin, Assistant Pastor Springhouse Worship & Arts Center

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The book of 1 John in  
the Bible

Paul in Romans (6:6) says, “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done \_\_\_\_\_, that we should no longer be slaves to sin...”

The old person has been crucified with Christ. The old slave of sin is dead. In its place is a new man, a man that is \_\_\_\_\_ with respect to sin but \_\_\_\_\_ with respect to God.

Paul continues:

(11) “count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(12) Therefore do not let sin \_\_\_\_\_ in your mortal body so that you \_\_\_\_\_ its evil desires.

(13) Do not \_\_\_\_\_ any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

(14) “For sin shall no longer be your \_\_\_\_\_...”

The Christian has a new controlling principle; a “new obedience.”

Christians are not \_\_\_\_\_ or justified by this new obedience, but their \_\_\_\_\_ will manifest itself in concrete ways—in this new obedience.

What does this new obedience look like?

Positively, it looks like new \_\_\_\_\_ which begins to appear. Negatively, it looks like \_\_\_\_\_ old sins. Here’s Paul describing both sides: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:22,23).

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, “Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be \_\_\_\_\_: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were \_\_\_\_\_, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

### Part 3: Changing Our Attitude

*A couple statistics: Promise Keeper men who viewed pornography in last week-53%. Christians who said pornography is a major problem in the home-47%.*

Repentance is said to be a heartfelt regret and apology and also a \_\_\_\_\_ from the sin.

What if you just cant? Are you going to Hell?

This is a real testimonial:

“It all started when I was 12 years old (I'm now 24). It began with the curiosity that the changes in my body... began to look pornography, until finally I ended up hiring a prostitute to have sex. I tried to approach God for many years, but this addiction is stronger than me, now I can not get the sexual content that my eyes have seen out of my mind... My only desire is to approach God and someday have a relationship with him as clean as it should be from the beginning ... but however much I try I always trip.”

This is, too:

“Yeah I look at porn. I'm admiring the female form. This is how God made me. He understands.”

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XXXChurch.com

Porn isn't the only category where we see people who call themselves Christian continue to sin. Consider these stats:

Divorce rates for Evangelical Christians: \_\_\_\_%, for Non-evangelical "Born Again Christians": \_\_\_\_%. (Compared to the population at large: 33%). (Barna 2009)

Of "Born Again Christians" \_\_\_\_% said co-habitation is morally acceptable, \_\_\_\_% defined sexual fantasies as morally acceptable, and \_\_\_\_% incorrectly suggested that apart from reasons of adultery, divorce is not a sin, \_\_\_\_% said that drunkenness is morally acceptable. (Barna 2001)

There are two things you can say for sure about human beings: our opposable thumbs make us great at using tools, and we are all big, fat liars. By age four, \_\_\_\_% of children have grasped the concept of lying, and it just gets worse from there. (Mental Floss 2012)

It doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ what sin it is, a true Christian comes to repentance and with the Holy Spirit's help turns away from sin.

This "turning away" is the key difference between the Devil and his long history of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in his sin and the truly repentant, like King David who \_\_\_\_\_ himself for his sins.

On final stat: Only about \_\_\_\_% of all self-identified Christians in America have come to the final stops on the transformational journey – the places where they have \_\_\_\_\_ of their life to God, submitted to His will for their life, and devoted themselves to loving and serving God and other people. (Barna 2011)

That should be 100% for all true Christians.

"Yoghurt, which to Vimes's mind was a type of cheese that wasn't trying hard enough." - Terry Pratchett, Snuff

## Homework

*A song: This is your life / Are you who you want to be? (Switchfoot)*

Read 1 John 3 in context. Ask yourself:

1. Is my life characterized by a transformation from sinner to saint?

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2. Is there a sin in my life that I continue to practice?

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3. What have I done about these sins in my life?

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*Pray: God, I know I'm a sinner and I know it is wrong to continue to sin. Wash me clean of my sins and help me die to my flesh so I can stop sinning. Put people in my life that can help me along this way. Break my love of sin, please! I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.*

The verbs in each of these examples are in the present tense: "abides," "keeps on," "makes a practice," and so forth. All these verbs point to ongoing and continuous action. John is not saying about the Christian who falls into sin. Rather, he's talking about the person whose life trajectory is characterized by it. He's talking about the person who, you might say, consciously abides in it, deliberately keeps in it, and happily makes it a practice. The pattern and direction of a Christian's day-in, day-out conduct will reflect a desire to love and obey Jesus, not Satan. A Christian cannot be characterized by a lifestyle of sin." - Mike McKinley, Am I Really a Christian?

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Barna.org