

## THE RIGHT BEHAVIOR

### I John

Is there anyone here who doesn't want their children, or others, to behave? Of course not! ! ! We want them to do things that are right. We want them to act in such a way so as not to cause others to think harsh of them or us. When we, or our children behave in a proper and pleasing manner, we become a good example to others.

Just as we parents instruct our children how to behave, God has given us instruction, through the writings of John. John gives us several test on the "right behavior." These principles are found in I John...

#### I. Walk in the Light (I John 1:7)

##### A. The Christian Walk.

1. The Christian walk begins when we obey the gospel.
2. "Walking" involves progress, and Christians are supposed to advance in spiritual life.
3. The Christian walk is when our lives are in accordance with God's will, when we are living in accordance to the way God would have us live.
4. Our walk is our life. Continuous action.

##### B. Gal. 5:25

1. Our lives need to reflect our beliefs.
2. Gal. 5:16, 26

##### C. Gal. 6:16

1. When we walk "God's walk," we shall have peace and mercy.
2. Upon all who walk by the rule just stated (New creature is everything).

##### D. Jesus said in Matt. 5:14...

1. People around us can see if we are a light, or if we are darkness.
2. Psa. 119:105—lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

##### E. I John 1:6—Walk in darkness, or habitually live a life of sin, we lie.

#### II. Admit your sinfulness (1:8)

##### A. Romans 3:23

1. No point in trying to believe we do not have sin.
2. We lie to ourselves if we make that claim.
3. Self-delusion is of no help to us.
4. We cannot claim that sin has no real significance in our lives

##### B. We must properly view ourselves with respect to sin.

1. Sin is a fact in our past.
2. Sin is a fight in the present.

##### C. What we say and what we do must correspond to God's will.

##### D. We have these promises.

1. We can be cleansed of sin by the blood of Christ (1:7).
2. God is faithful and righteous to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1:9)
3. Conditioned on verses 7 & 9.

#### III. Obey God's Commandments (2:3; 3:24)

##### A. In I John 2:3-6, John develops some characteristics of "walking in the light"

1. We must live according to God's commandments (2:3).
2. We must keep his word (2:5)
3. We must exemplify Christ in our lives (2:6).

##### B. When we obey his commandments, others will know that we belong to God.

1. John 8:31-32.. abide in his word.
2. John 14:15—if you love me.
3. I John 5:3

- C. Three motives for obedience.
  1. Have to. . .slave.
  2. Need to. . .employee.
  3. Want to. . . Christian.
- IV. To Follow Christ (2:6).
  - A. Our example
    1. I Pet. 2:21
    2. John 13:15
    3. John 15:4-10... to abide is to live. Remain in contact.
  - B. Even as he walked.”
    1. The thought is that Christ walked in the light.
    2. He led a righteous and committed life.
    3. We must walk in a way as to grow spiritually daily and become more and more like Christ.
    4. “Even as he walked...”
      - a. I John 1:7—as He is in the light.
      - b. I John 3:3—even as He is pure.
      - c. I John 3:7—even as He is righteous.
      - d. I John 4:17—even as He is...
  - C. Practical Application.
    1. When someone sins against us.. Eph. 4:32
    2. Husband and wife—Eph. 5:25,29
    3. No matter what area of life it may be, our responsibility is to do what Jesus would do. . .
- V. Love the Brethren.
  - A. I John 2:9 John sets forth an acid test.
    1. Hatred has no room in the light.
    2. There is no marriage between darkness and light.
    3. If a man hates his brother, i.e. if he is characterized by spite, or prejudice, or harsh words, or suspicions, or jealousy, or unfounded condemnations—he is walking in darkness, and he falsifies his position and calling as a Christian.
  - B. Christians who love their brethren walk in light (2:10).
    1. Will not stumble or be a stumbling-block.
    2. Will grow spiritually.
  - C. I John 3:14,15
    1. A hater is a murderer.
    2. No murderer has eternal life.
    3. We need to examine closely our heart relative to the love or hate which we hold for our brethren.
  - D. I John 4:20,21... We may profess love, but our actions will tell the story.
  - E. John 13:34,35
- VI. Love Not The World.
  - A. I John 2:15-17
    1. The church fights a constant battle with worldliness.
    2. Fewer and fewer are engaging in this battle.
    3. It is increasingly difficult to see any difference between the lifestyle of many Christians and that of people in the world.
  - B. A Christian stays away from the world:
    1. ...because of what the world is
    2. ...because of what the world does to us
    3. ...because of what he is—a child of God.

- C. Jesus said (Matt. 6:24)
- D. Paul said
  - 1. Romans 12:1,2
  - 2. Phil. 4:8
- E. James said.
  - 1. James 1;27
  - 2. James 4:4

Con: What are the rules of right behavior?

- ✓ Walk in the light
- ✓ Admit your sinfulness.
- ✓ Obey God's commandments.
- ✓ Follow Christ.
- ✓ Love the brethren
- ✓ Love not the world.

Do you fit into this pattern of right behavior? If you are not a child of God, there is no way you can be following this pattern. Change that today!