

## ***That You May Know – 1 John 3:4-10***

“We pursue being a disciple making family: *surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.***”

As we read this text, we see a very clear litmus test in regard to whether one is a follower of Christ or not. John has brought in the evidence for one who is a child of God or not. There is great comfort and assurance in these verses but also a check for those who have claimed to be Christian but who continue to practice lawlessness. Let's examine a few aspects of this text with a few questions.

### **Discussion Questions\* -- \*do not feel the pressure to cover them all**

1. The Bible clearly points out that sin is our primary issue and the core of all of our struggles. How does John define and describe sin in this text? What are some “operating” definitions of sin that we tend to use that seem to lessen the seriousness and severity of sin in God's eyes? Share a time that you began to justify your sin by changing it's name to something more acceptable.
2. John calls out, “little children, let no one deceive you.” He is speaking to them with a term of affection and endearment. He is warning them not to be deceived. John 8:44 tells us that the devil is the father of all lies. What are some ways today that we are deceived into sin or maybe even a false belief about God (i.e. doctrinal, social, cultural, etc.)? What are some ways that we can heed this warning and protect ourselves from falling into this deception and ultimately be found in sin?
3. We are clearly either a child of God or abiding as a child of the evil one, the devil. What does John point out as the demarcation or delineation between the two? He ends this text on two points that make it crystal clear. How have you seen these lines get skewed in our modern culture? Why is it impossible for one born of God to continue a practice of sinning?
4. Clearly, we as believers still tend to sin because of our old nature and indwelling sin. That doesn't mean we lose our salvation or that we are not children of God. How does this passage speak to this and in what ways can we find assurance in our struggle with this sin? Why is it important to deal with this sin in a way that God prescribes (1 John 1:9)? Many times, there is a certain sin we struggle with that the temptation just doesn't seem to go away. How would you help someone with this issue? How have you worked through this struggle in your own life?

5. Who is someone right now that you can pray for that is making unwise choices and being deceived into thinking God's way is not the best way? They may be an unbeliever who needs to be rescued or maybe a believer that's dishonoring God.