

Children, don't be fooled. Anyone who does right is good, just like Christ himself. Anyone who keeps on sinning belongs to the devil. He has sinned from the beginning, but the Son of God came to destroy all that he has done. God's children cannot keep on being sinful. His life-giving power lives in them and makes them his children, so they cannot keep on sinning. You can tell God's children from the devil's children, because those who belong to the devil refuse to do right or to love each other. (1 John 3:7-10 CEV)

**“**You look just like your father.”  
 “You've got your mother's eyes.”  
 “That's just what your father would do.”

“I can see you take after your mother.”

Except in cases of adopted children, it is generally true that a child bears some resemblance to his or her parents. Even those who are adopted often carry characteristics that mark them as children of their adoptive parents, though their physical likenesses are not from the same genetic encoding. Thus, most of the time children can be connected to their parents by some combination of hair color, eye color, skin color, height, habitus, shoe size, personality, demeanor, facial expression, or a host of other traits. These certainly may not be identical between children and parents, but they usually are suggestive of a relationship.

However, more important than any chromosomal heritage is the spiritual expression of your and my lives. We can do nothing about the former, but the latter is entirely a matter of our choice. God's children are empowered, as John points out, by the Spirit of God—His life-giving power—dwelling in us. The resulting appearance of this encoding is demonstrated when people see us doing right and loving one another. Don't be dismayed if it appears John's words are harsh. I'm not perfect, and neither are you. Those “who keep on sinning” are the people who reject the truth that Jesus paid the penalty for their sin. None of us would resemble our Father without our Savior's gift. —Jeff Russell

# Genetics

e-KardíaGram is produced by The Kardía Foundation. Written by Jeffrey A. Russell, PhD, ATC

© 2013 The Kardía Foundation [www.kardia.org](http://www.kardia.org)

We connect the Christian faith and healthcare, equipping Christian healthcare workers to integrate their faith and practice with grace, respect, and compassion.

To subscribe, go to <http://bit.ly/KardiaEKG>

This electronic publication may be forwarded in its original format with proper credit given

