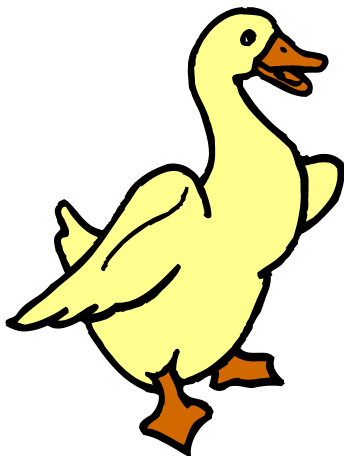


**If it Walks Like  
a Duck...**



**...it is a Duck!**

Some time ago, a duck came to live in our yard. We didn't know where it came from nor why it chose us. I think it probably had something to do with the fact that we have three dogs which are regularly fed and watered, and the duck figured that this was a good place to be.

After a while, I began to wonder if this duck thought that it was a dog. It hung around the dogs and ate some of their food. When I opened the windows on mornings, the duck would look up at me, just as the dogs looked up with their “good morning” gaze.

The thing is, that for all the months that duck lived in our yard with the dogs, it never became a dog. It was always a duck. Our dogs bark when strangers come around. Never once did I hear that duck bark. The dogs always howl at the music of the ice-cream truck, but the duck never tried!

In fact, because of its duck nature, it did duck-like things - things that dogs would not or could not do. For example, if I were using the hose in the yard, the duck would stand there, flapping its wings, enjoying the shower, while the dogs ran for shelter

in their kennels. Any water standing around was an invitation for the duck to take a splash as well as a drink.

But there was one more thing that this duck, in its duck nature did – it laid duck eggs. Yes! *It* was a *she*.

Now, you are probably wondering what all this talk about ducks and dogs has to do with you. Well, you know, there are some children who think that if they hang around Christians, go to Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Bible Camps, that they are alright with God.

But do you know what? Hanging around Christians and doing what they do cannot make you a Christian anymore than hanging around dogs made that duck a dog!

That duck still had its duck nature, and you still have only your sinful nature if you have never asked the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour. In your sinful nature, there is only one thing you can produce – sin – just as that duck produced eggs.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

The only way you can be a Christian and do things pleasing to God, is by getting a new nature – a Christ-like nature. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Bring to the Lord Jesus your old life with all your bad thoughts, words and actions. Believe that He died on the cross for you. Know that He is risen from the dead and is in heaven calling to you: “Come unto me...and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). He can and He will take your sins away and give you a new nature. Come to Him now, and get that new nature.

No. 6

*Janice Allman*

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Scriptures from *The Modern King James Version*

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