



Fellowship & Freedom (1 John 1:5-2:2)

We live in a world where many who claim Christ have few spiritual friendships, and live in sin without shedding a tear. Today we discover how walking with Jesus results in fellowship with others & freedom from sin.

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teachingnotes

* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

Catch the Context

The apostle John was writing to 1st century Christians being influenced by false teachers distorting who Jesus was, just a man used by God; others said Jesus was divine, but never fully human. See John's response in 1 Jn 1:1-4.

1 John 1:5-6 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light**, and there is absolutely no darkness in him. If we say, "We have fellowship with him," and yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth.

Heard from WHO? Jesus, who taught that you can't have **fellowship with God** and continue to **walk in darkness** - meaning: to live a lie, to SAY one thing and DO another.

Those who have **fellowship with God** are *spiritual partners* in right relationship with Him. Rather than walking in darkness and living in lies, we are to be people who walk in truth & light. Look at the great promises attached to those who walk in the light.

1 John 1:7 If we **walk in the light** as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin**.

To **walk in the light** is to live in truth and purity. More than *Believing* the right things, we must *Be-living* the right things.

- 1) Those who walk in the light **have fellowship with one another**. Imagine a world where people humble themselves and serve each other, treat each other with value, and speak truth in love. We can experience spiritual partnership & right relationships together...right now!
- 2) Those who walk in the light can trust that **the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin!** Gone - no longer held in our account - paid in full, because Jesus gave His life to pay for our sin! **We have sinned greatly, but our Savior is GREATER!**

Look how the apostle Peter describes the death of Jesus.

1 Peter 2:24-25 **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree**; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed**. For you *were like sheep going astray*, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

John confronts those who deny their own sin & dilute the significance and necessity of Jesus' death for sin.

1 John 1:8-10 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Many in our culture denied the fact that they have sinned greatly against God, and therefore have no need of forgiveness. Many feel like they deserve heaven one day because they are basically 'good people'. But, as we have ASKED many times before: "*If you could be good enough, then why did Jesus have to die?*"

Those who refuse to acknowledge their sin will never appreciate their need for a Savior. To **confess our sins** is to humble ourselves and agree with God, that what we have done was wicked. Much more than saying, "I'm sorry", true confession must include a sincere desire to ADMIT and TURN FROM our sin. Here's an example of the difference between genuine confession of sin vs. prideful prayer.

Luke 18:10-14 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.' "But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, '**God, have mercy on me, a sinner!**' I tell you, **this one went down to his house justified rather than the other**, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Confess your sin, don't conceal your sin. When you do, you will know PEACE with God, forgiveness & freedom!

We aren't doomed to live in sin. We can live in purity! Remember, John has just told his audience that since they have been forgiven, they should live like it, by walking in the light instead of walking in darkness. John again makes his expectation crystal clear.

1 John 2:1a My little children, **I am writing you these things so that you may not sin.**

Sadly, many Christians have given into the idea that since we have been sinners, and have a sinful nature, that we can't overcome sin and live in purity. That is NOT what Jesus' closest disciples taught, as we are reading from John. Here's what Peter wrote on the subject:

1 Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, **you also are to be holy in all your conduct**; for it is written, **Be holy, because I am holy.**

What if we HAVE sinned this week? Are we kicked out of the family because of willful sin? Look at John's response.

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, **I am writing you these things so that you may not sin.** But **if anyone does sin**, we have an advocate with the Father—**Jesus Christ** the righteous one. He himself **is the atoning sacrifice for our sins**, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

An **advocate** is one who stands with us and defends us (Greek *paraklētos* - "one who comes alongside"¹). In God's courtroom, Jesus is our defense attorney; instead of proving us INNOCENT, He pays the debt he didn't owe for a debt we could not pay.

Colossians 2:14 He **erased the certificate of debt**, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and **has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.**

This is GREAT NEWS for US, but we can't keep it to ourselves, because Jesus is "**the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.**" Since the death of Jesus is enough to pay for any and all who will confess their sins, SOMEONE must go tell them!

It is NOT your responsibility to save their life. It IS your responsibility to tell them how their life can be saved.

FEET2FAITH

- 1) **Examine your life and see if you have stumbled in sin or are walking in sin.** If this sin is a one-time thing or ongoing & overpowering?
- 2) **Confess your sin to God and to a trusted Christian.**
- 3) **Share how God forgave you and how He can forgive them.** Tell another beggar where to find the bread.

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
Or call our **deacons & wives**: Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski.

¹ John MacArthur, 1, 2, 3 John, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2007), 46.