

CALLED INTO FELLOWSHIP (b) | 1 John 1:3-4 | Pastor Mark Bofill | 11/06/22

I. The Focus of Fellowship (1-2) | II. The Invitation to Fellowship (3) | III. The Anticipation of Joyful Fellowship (4)

Intro: Last week we covered the introduction to 1 John along with the first two verses. Truths which taught that Jesus was in the beginning and is the Eternal Word of Life, and the Word of life became a Human being, of which the apostles bore witness to. John declared and emphasized that **Word of Life is to be the FOCUS OF FELLOWSHIP (1-2).**

With Jesus as the foundation, John now writes of his twofold purpose for his readers – (1 John 1:3-4) *“that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”* – Because John found the abundant life in the Father and the Son, he now **“DECLARES IT”** to others by offering an...

- **Invitation to Fellowship (3)** – The Greek term is *Koinonia*, which means communion, oneness, and joint existence. It refers to a mutually caring, sharing and living partnership. *(It’s an important word in the Christian vocabulary – It’s a cure for loneliness! – Expound/Hot coals Illstr.)*

- The concept of fellowship was highly valued in Greek culture, but it was limited to relationships between humans! **The thought of a personal connection with God was foreign and far-reaching for sure.** *(Why? B/C unbelief has nothing in common with a Holy God!)*

- **John invited others to Fellowship**, that they may come to experience what a real relationship with the Godhead looked like. John said, *“truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.* – Though offered to all, **it is exclusive** for those who believe in Jesus, repent of their sin, and accept forgiveness for their sin. – **This is when true fellowship begins!** – **Three relationships change when we believe in Jesus: Jesus became our Savior; God became our Father; and the church becomes our family!**

Q: Are you part of the family? Have you accepted this invitation? (Today can be your day!)

John now declares his second purpose for writing...

- **Anticipation of Joyful Fellowship (4)** – The result of true fellowship is fullness of joy! I love what the late **Warren Wiersbe** comments on this verse, *“Fellowship is Christ’s answer to the loneliness of life. Joy is His answer to the emptiness, the hollowness of life.”* – It is **“fellowship”** with the Father and Son that makes **the “life”** of a Christian, **so full of joy!** – Jesus said, **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10b)**

- **The Joy of Fellowship is the Result of Abiding!** – In **(John 15:10-11)** said this, *“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”* **“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:11)** – *(What is your tank filled with?)*

CLOSING THOUGHT: The Invite to Fellowship – is offered freely to all believers! When we walk in fellowship, we are joyfully blessed – *Oh, gift of gifts! oh, grace of grace! That God should condescend - To make my heart His dwelling-place, And be my closest Friend!* – J. Sidlow Baxter

- **OBTAINING fellowship** is just the first step to enjoying it! – John NOW declares the **importance of MAINTAINING** that joyful fellowship by...

CONTINUING IN FELLOWSHIP | 1 John 1:5-2:2 | Pastor Mark Bofill | 11/06/22

I. Requires Walking in the Light (5-7) | II. Requires Confessing our Sins (8-10) | III. Requires Advocacy with the Father (2:1-2)

Because we all still have a sinful nature, constant **JOY requires maintenance!** – John was aware of this, so he declares **“the Message”** as a premise for his instruction (1 John 1:5), *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

- This message is **an authoritative claim** about the nature of God, which is genuinely founded on what God has said about Himself. (*This produced confidence in John’s declaration to believers*)
- This message **reveals** a divine characteristic about God that we cannot fully comprehend – i.e., **GOD IS LIGHT!** (*Here are a just a few scriptural facts about God’s nature and light...*)
 - (James 1:17 TLB) says that God is, *“...the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow.”* (Omnipotence)
 - (1 Tim 6:16a) says that *[He] alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see...* (Omnipresence)
 - (Dan 2:2) declares: *He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.* (Omniscience)
- This message also **communicates** the purity of God. – (Clarke) said that **Light...[is] a very proper emblem of the purity, perfection, and goodness of the Divine nature.** – **Light by definition, has NO DARKNESS AT ALL!** – Because God is Light... **He CANNOT have any form of darkness within Him...** or **HE WOULD NOT BE GOD!** (*God is both mentally and morally pure!*)

CLOSING THOUGHT: John knew that understanding God’s nature was essential to continue in fellowship with HIS family! – John also knew that **mankind has a sinful nature** which could easily draw us away from Joyful Fellowship. Using a series of probable professions, **John now exposes what helps and what hinders true fellowship!**

Continuing in Fellowship...

I. Requires Walking in the Light (5-7) Not just by profession! – *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

A. If we say (6) – Addressing believers...John warns of false claims, which requires examination.

- 1. Why is this claim FALSE?** Because *fellowship means to have something in common.* – We just read that **“God is light,”** i.e., pure, good, righteous, truth, etc. – **“Walking in Darkness”** therefore, **would be going against everything God stands for! (READ Eph 4:17-24)**
- 2. What is the RESULT of such a claim?** John points out (*exposes*) two things...
 - We are false in our WORDS – **“we lie”**
 - We are false in our DEEDS – **“do not practice the truth”** (*Faker, Fraud, or Phony – you choose!*)

If we say (6) Cont...

3. Clarification: The issue here is **fellowship, not salvation!** The Christian who temporarily walks in darkness is still saved, but not in walking in **fellowship** with God. (*Who actually wants this?*)

- (2 Cor 13:5) says to, *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.*

However...

B. If we walk... (7a) *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).* Here, John prescribes **the way of light... It's not to be "just a profession," but our delightful practice!**

1. How do we Walk in the Light? By **delighting** in your relationship with God, by **doing** things that are pleasing to God and by **discontinuing** the things that offend God!

- (Micah 6:8) puts it this way, *"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you? But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God"* Only when we walk this way will we experience **"Fellowship with one another!"**

2. When we walk the light... (7b) John tells us that **the purifying blood of Jesus Christ cleanses our SIN!** – **ALL SIN, including the sin we inherited from Adam**, the sin we committed as children, the sin we committed as adults, the sins we committed against our parents, our siblings, our spouses, our children, our employers or employees, our friends and enemies, lying, stealing, cheating, adultery, swearing, drugs, alcohol, promiscuity, and murder. **All that can be classified as sin is cleansed by His blood...amen!**

Continuing in Fellowship...

II. Requires Confessing of our Sins (8-10) As John addresses the next false claim, he may have encountered some professing Christians who thought they had **"become sinless."** – *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰ *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

A. If we say we... HAVE NO SIN (8) This claim is not only **erroneous**, but **dangerous!** John emphatically rejects the idea of a sinless Christian. He then reveals the consequences to any who embrace such falsehood: **Self-deception:** *"we deceive ourselves;"* which leads to **Living in error**, because *"the truth is not in us"*, (i.e., walking in darkness, **not walking in light!**)

- (Prov 20:9 KJV) *Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?*
- (Ecc 7:20 KJV) *For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*

Ahhh, but...

B. "IF" we confess OUR SIN (9) – I haven't mentioned it yet, but one of my favorite words in the Bible is the word "IF!" – **Why?** Because **it signifies a condition, a choice to be made.** This phrase coupled with one of my favorite verses in the Bible (v.9), provides one of the most liberating truths known to man. i.e., **"IF" you choose to exercise your own will correctly.** (*If I do... or If I don't...it depends on how I choose to respond – But why stay away from the sheepfold?*)

"IF" we confess OUR SIN (9) Cont...

- To **confess** means, "to say the same as." When we confess our sin(s), we willingly agree the same thing about our sin that God says about it!
- **Notice the plurality on the word sin(s).** Instead of referring to a "once-for-all" confession of sin at our conversion, **we must continually confess our sins as they arise.** Confession allows us to remain in a right relationship with God. (*It keeps the Joy Cup full – Acts 5:32*)
 - (Prov 28:13) *He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever **confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.***
- **The surety of your forgiveness is based His Character. He is faithful and True!** *On the other hand...*

C. If we say we... HAVE NOT SINNED (10) – The next false claim John deals with is those professing Christians who "thought" they had **NEVER SINNED!**

- If we deny the presence of sin, we are self-deceived and are denying God's Word and testimony. John says, these make God a Liar! What did God say about sin?
 - **Rom 3:23 KJV) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God**

CLOSING THOUGHT: **If there is a problem with our fellowship with God, it is our fault!** It is not the fault of God because there is no sin or darkness in Him at all. – **Our Christian duty is to live in the light God gives: "Now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (Eph 5:8).** When we walk in the light, we cannot walk in darkness. Sin is left in the shadows as we let our light "shine before men" (Matt 5:16).

Continuing in Fellowship...

III. Requires Advocacy with the Father (2:1-2) – We must remember that this very powerful epistle was written by a very old apostle. **John writes as a father to little children** who lovingly reminds them that provision has been made for them **"IF" (when) they sin.**

That provision is found in...

A. Jesus is Our Advocate (1) – The word "Advocate" literally means "**to call to one's side, to one's aid.**" It is used in a court of justice to denote a **legal assistant**, a counsel for the defense! – (Psalm 62:6) says, **He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.** – Why is Jesus is the perfect advocate? **B/C He is RIGHTEOUS! (1b) and He always lives to make intercession for [us] (Heb 7:25).**

B. Jesus is Our Propitiation (2) – The word *propitiation* means "**an appeasing.**" Ancient pagans would offer sacrifices to appease their false gods. In the N.T., **it is God, not man, who offers the appeasing sacrifice in His Son!** Later in (1 John 4:10), John states: **In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** (*Through His death on the cross, Jesus is the means by which God can show mercy to the sinner.*)

This wonderful "**propitiation**" was given to the whole world, but is **accessed only by those who believe in Jesus** - (cf. Rom 3:21-26) In closing we must Utilize our advocate, whom God provided for our sins, **so that we can continue in Joyful fellowship with His Family. [PRAY – COMMUNION]**