

Warming Up

Those of you who are married, briefly share your wedding story? It may include the engagement too. Did anything happen that made it memorable? (careful how you answer this as I'm certain your spouse would strike you if you thought your own wedding "wasn't memorable") Did anything surprise you? Didn't anything happen that you did not expect?

Why do you think God had Hosea do something unthinkable as opposed to just writing a letter to His people?

Digging Deeper

Syncretism is the process by which aspects of one belief are assimilated into, or blended with, another belief. This leads to fundamental changes in both beliefs.

How do you see syncretism creeping into Christianity today?

We said in the message that "***God is the one who defines the relationship.***" Why do you think that is? Does it seem fair?

What motivated you to put your faith in Christ?

- My parents made me.
- I thought it was a good thing to do.
- I believe it.
- I don't want to go to hell.
- Something else?

I John 1:6-7(NIV)

⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

What does it mean to "walk in the light". How can you tell whether you're walking in light or dark?

What things in your life trigger a walk into darkness?

When you sin, what is your process to realign with the Spirit?

What is God's part and your part in the confession process? Why is it important to understand this?

I John 2:3-6(NIV)

³ We know that we have come to know him if we **obey his commands**. ⁴ The man who says, "I know him," but **does not do what he commands** is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But if anyone **obeys** his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

If we are not saved by effort, then why is obedience important?

Bringing it Home

How do I know when I'm making my walk with God more about me and less about God?