

## “Our fellowship is with the Father”

1 John 1:1-2:2

Text: 1 John 1:3

(1 John 1:3) "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Introduction:

Tonight I want to begin to look at a word from the Scripture that is used often, but I wonder if we truly understand it. To fellowship means to have something in common. While we as Christians have many things in common, the one essential ingredient of Christian fellowship is Christ Himself.

We can have fellowship with one another, but we also can have fellowship with the Father and with His Son. Our ‘union’ with Christ is our "son-ship" and that never changes. However, our "communion" with Christ is our "fellowship" and that can be hindered by sin.

"Son-ship is a matter of life and death, but "fellowship" is a matter of light and darkness. In the first epistle of John we find the subject of fellowship explained in great detail. Over the next few evenings, we will see the conditions for fellowship, our conduct in fellowship, the characteristics of fellowship, some cautions in

fellowship, and the consequences of fellowship. Tonight we want to consider the conditions for fellowship.

### 1. Conditions For Fellowship 1:5-2:2

#### A. Conformity to a standard (5-7)

(1 John 1:5-7) "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. {6} If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: {7} But if we walk in the light, **as he** is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1. The contrast: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

a. Light represents holiness, purity, and glory.

b. Darkness represents evil and wickedness.

c. With God there are no gray areas or shadows.

2. The conflict: Our talk vs our walk

a. If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness - we do not the truth!

- b. Walking in darkness refers to a life characterized by sin.
- c. If we say one thing and yet our lives reflect the opposite then we are liars.

3. The correct condition results in:

- a. Consistent walk
- b. Common fellowship
- c. Clean life

B. Confession of Sin (1:8-2:2)

1. The Claim. v8, 10

(1 John 1:8) "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

(1 John 1:10) "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

- a. Of no sin nature [8]
  - 1) Not talking about acts of sin.
  - 2) This is a complete denial of the principle of indwelling sin.

3) This is a denial of Scripture.

NOTE: Ro. 3:23, Ro. 5:12

(Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

(Romans 5:12) "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

b. Of no sin practice [10]

- 1) Here is a claim that we have not committed sin.
- 2) This is such an outlandish claim which could only be made by redefining sin.
- 3) Calling sin - errors in judgment or just mistakes.
- 4) However, no such distinction can be made in Scripture.

c. The result of such claims.

- 1) We deceive ourselves.

2) We make God a liar.

confession of sin restores  
that fellowship.

3) His truth, His Word is not  
in us - - there can be no  
fellowship with God

### 3. The Cure. 2:1-2

## 2. The Confession v 9

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to  
forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(1 John 2:1-2) "My little children, these things write I unto you,  
that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the  
Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: {2} And he is the propitiation  
for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the  
whole world."

a. Confess = to say the same thing  
about sin that God does.

#### a. Sin and the Scriptures.

b. Character of God.

1) One might wrongly assume  
that we could excuse our  
sin because it is our nature,  
and after all, God will  
forgive if we confess.

1) God is faithful

2) God is just or righteous

2) John makes it very clear  
that that is not conclusion  
we ought to arrive at.

c. Cleansing from God

1) NOTE: John is writing to  
believers - we need  
confession and cleansing  
daily!

3) Rather bluntly he says, "Sin  
not".

2) God forgives and cleanses

3) NOTE: Commission of sin  
by a believer interrupts his  
fellowship with God - but

4) "My little children"  
reminds them of their new  
life in God's family and  
since we've been born  
again, we ought to live  
according to our new  
nature - not our old!

## b. Sin and the Savior

- 1) He is our supporter -our advocate - He's on our side!
- 2) He is the satisfaction for sin - His death on Calvary paid the price of sin's penalty.
- 3) He is the Savior of the whole world - salvation is available to all who will receive it by faith.

### *Conclusion:*

What are the conditions for fellowship with God? There are only two:

1. Conformity to a Standard: Jesus Christ
2. Confession of Sin: to Our Savior

Are we in fellowship with God tonight? If we have met His conditions we are.

Is He our standard or is the world?

Have we kept our account in order? Daily confession of our sins is necessary for daily cleansing!