

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 1 John 1

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this amazing letter that the Apostle John has written for us.

To remind us of the reality of who God is – and what is God like, the reality of who Jesus is and the reality of what is a Christian and what is a Christian really like.

Let's pray...

In looking back at our study last Sunday in the first four verses of Chapter 1 –

The Apostle John laid the foundation for this personal letter that he wrote to the believer –

Telling us about the reality of Jesus

He is eternal.

He is immortal.

He is experientially – meaning that we can know Jesus in a personal and intimate way.

John gives us his firsthand account of his personal witness of Jesus.

He spent time with Jesus.

He walked with Jesus.

He ate with Jesus.

He touched Jesus.

He laughed with Jesus and cried with Jesus.

John was able to witness the unfolding of Jesus' earthly ministry.

And in the same way that he focused on the reality of Jesus in the first four verses – John now focuses on the reality of what it means to be a Christian.

John is going to say that the Christian life goes beyond mere words –

He is going to tell us that the Christian life includes a walk

So if we are truly walking in the light – then our lives will reveal what our lips are saying.

So before we look at our text – I want to make sure that we understand the difference between relationship and fellowship.

Relationship is something that we have with someone by virtue of the fact of relatedness.

My daughters are related to me based on the fact that I am their father.

I am related to them

Fellowship is what we do in a relationship.

Fellowship takes place when you love someone or have intimacy with someone.

My relationship with them will never change as I will always be related to them –

But my fellowship might change – especially when they move out of my home.

Now, as a born again Christian – by the power of the Holy Spirit - we have a relationship with God.

**[Jhn 1:12 NKJV] 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:**

Fellowship is when we pray, when we have intimacy with Him – when we speak to Him – when we walk with Him

Now, the bible says that sin separates us from God

It doesn't change our relationship

But it does change our fellowship

And that is the point that John is going to make in our text this morning.

**[1Jo 1:5-7 NKJV] 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.**

John lays it out plainly to the reader here –

The message that he heard is the message that he speaks it is a message that he heard directly from Jesus –

It is a firsthand account.

It is not something that he came up on his own.

This is not his personal opinion or ideas about God.

This is God's message about Himself -

The message – God is light.

When did John receive the message???

In John 8 – when Jesus was teaching in the courtyard of the temple -

**[Jhn 8:12 NKJV] 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."**

So, what is Jesus saying here when He says "I am the light of the world"

Or what does John mean when he declares the message that was declared to him,

"God is light"

We need to understand what light is –

And the word that John uses here means "being exposed to the view of all"

Light makes it possible to see everything.

**[Psa 139:1-4 NKJV] 1 For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. O LORD, You have searched me and known [me]. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For [there is] not a word on my tongue, [But] behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. ...**

I find this so amazing –

That no matter where we are or what we are doing – God is right there with us.

And He knows what is going on.

**[Psa 139:11-12 NKJV] 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light [are] both alike [to You].**

So when we say that God is light – we know that nothing is hidden from God.

He knows and He sees everything.

That is good and it is bad isn't it?

Light reveals... while the opposite is true for darkness – it conceals.

And in this sense – darkness represents what is sinful or evil.

So the message that is being declared to us is that God is absent from any darkness.

God as to His nature is light, and darkness in Him does not exist, not even one particle.

There is absolutely no darkness in God.

Darkness is not in Him – ever!

That means that God is perfect in holiness.

John is connecting the dots –

Back in verse three –

**[1Jo 1:3 NKJV] 3 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.**

Now, he is talking about the conditions of the fellowship.

Darkness resists the light

Darkness in the scriptures is pictured as the place of captivity

**[Col 1:12-13 NKJV] 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed [us] into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**

As believers, we have been taken out of the darkness and put into the light

And because God is light and there is no darkness in Him

And since we are in the light – there is no room for darkness in us

You will notice in verse 6,8,10 a phrase –

And in the NKJV – the phrase is “If we say,”

And what John is going to do now – he is going to measure our actions by our claims.

If we say something and don't follow through – why say it all.

This verse provides the basis or the condition of true fellowship.

**6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

This makes perfect sense –

If God is light and in Him there is no darkness –

If we say that we are having fellowship with God and yet we are walking in darkness – something is not adding up.

John doesn't sugarcoat it for us

He says we are liars.

Go back to last week's study of what John says that fellowship is.

Fellowship is not simply sticking around and having a donut and coffee with other believers after our church service.

Church,

Fellowship with God cannot mean whatever we want it to mean – it has to mean something in the way that God's Word speaks of it, teaches it and explains it to us.

Can anyone claim to have fellowship with God? Yes

Does claiming that we have fellowship with God make it true? No

John gave us the description of what biblical fellowship is.

I gave you guys the Greek Word

Koinonia –

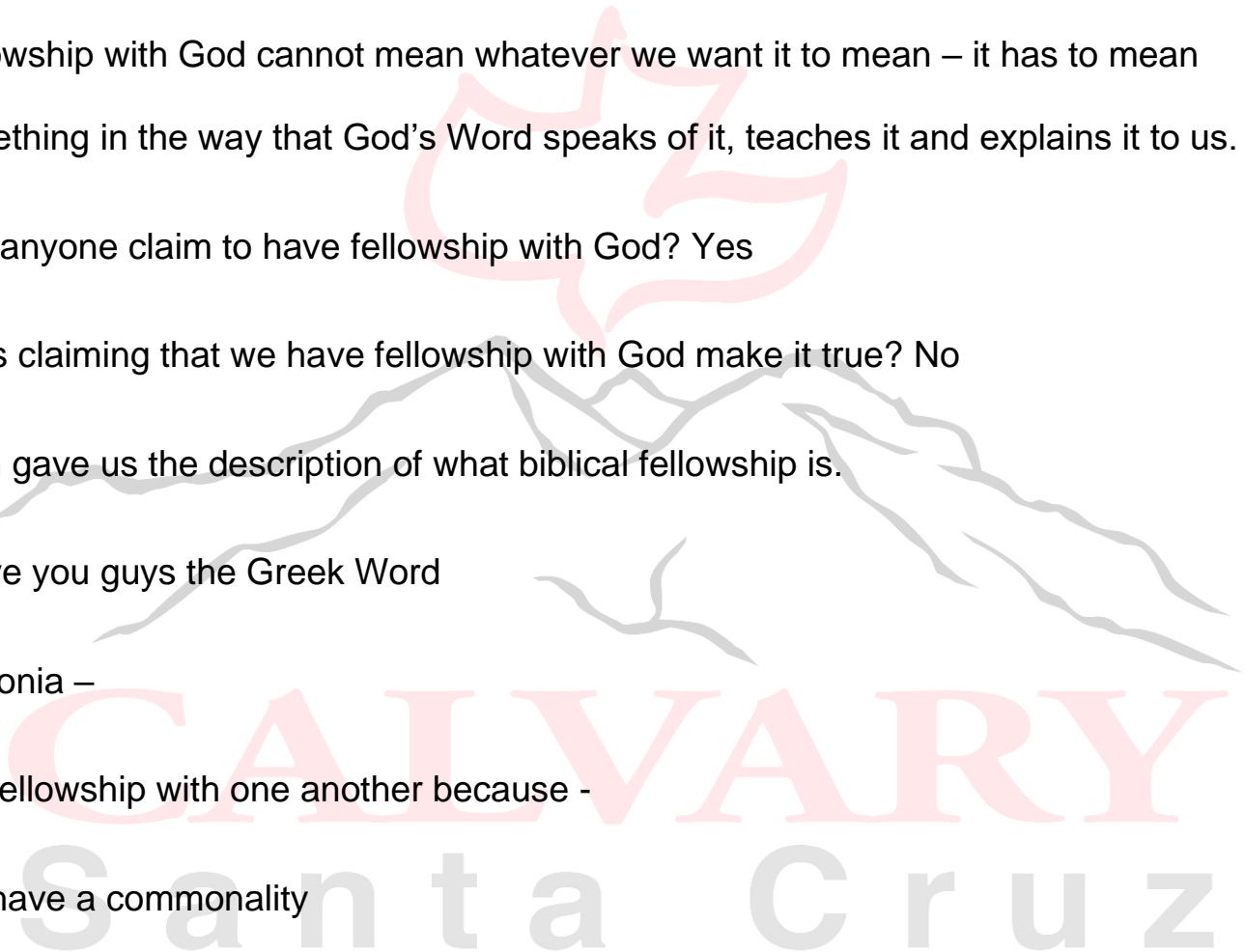
We fellowship with one another because -

We have a commonality

We have a partnership

We are likeminded

So, when we make the claim that we have fellowship with God –





We have certain things in common with Jesus

We no longer walk in the darkness

**[1Pe 2:9 NKJV] 9 But you [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

We have been called out of darkness

We have been asked to leave that life that we were called from.

We were not called out of darkness to bring the darkness with us.

You might be asking – well, what does it mean to walk in darkness?

John gives us an example –

I mentioned it last week – but I will take you to it again.

**[1Jo 2:9 NKJV] 9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.**

John is saying here - If there is somebody in our life, that has sinned against us and we haven't forgiven them, and by God's definition then, we are hating them – then we are walking in darkness and we are cutting ourselves off from the joy and the peace and the power of God.

And by John's definition, we are not only walking in darkness – we are not having fellowship with God right now.

**[Eph 5:8-11 NKJV] 8 For you were once darkness, but now [you are] light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose [them].**

We walk in darkness when we walk in sin and are disobedient to God's Word

We walk in darkness when we practice things that are contrary to the will of God, the holiness of God, the light that has been given to us in the Word of God.

We all fall short of the glory of God.

We all sin – we all miss the mark

That is not what John is referring to here.

Walking in darkness is something we do over and over again.

It is a continual lifestyle of darkness or sin

It is something that we do habitually.

It means walking in the opposite direction of God's desire for our life.

It is an intentional sin that God has convicted us of and we decide that we are going to continue to walk in that sin.

It is the person who is living in constant rebellion and constant disobedience.

They are walking in darkness.

So the question that is asked – If I am a Christian, why do I still struggle with sin?

Here is the thing church,

God can give us the power to live lives that are pleasing to Him.

The bible doesn't condemn us for having a struggle with sin –

The bible actually says that we are going to struggle with sin.

The bible says that the flesh wars against the spirit (Gal 5)

So what John is trying to remind us of is the reality of Jesus

The real Jesus that really lived, really died and rose from the dead – that claims and proclaims the ability to change your life and my life – can in fact change our life.

Remember, one of the reasons that John is writing this letter is because of the heresies that were going around in the early church.

The Gnostics were going around saying that God only cares about the spirit – not the flesh.

Therefore, we could live in sin and still have fellowship with God.

They were saying that they could walk in light and the darkness at the same time.

But John is saying here that a lifestyle of sin will pull you out of fellowship with God and the opposite is true as well – a lifestyle that is in fellowship with God will pull you out of a lifestyle of sin.

Remember, if someone has a false view of who Jesus is

They are going to have a false view of what salvation is

And they are going to have a false view of what sin is

But look at the blessing of fellowship

**7 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 (most of our sin?) all sin.**

Jesus is the basis of our fellowship

What breaks our fellowship? Sin

And now John is talking about the blessings of real fellowship.

We live in a society that believes that living for yourself, trusting yourself and taking care of yourself is the most important thing.

We live in a society that says if you want to accomplish anything in life – the most important thing you have to do is believe in yourself.

Walking in the light is intentionally and specifically rebuking the lies of darkness that have come into our lives and exposing every thought – to the light of Jesus Christ.

**[2Co 10:4-5 NKJV] 4 For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**

So we hold a grudge against someone else –

We don't want to walk in darkness anymore – we want to walk in the light.

what do we do?

God's word says that we forgive them.

bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ – we forgive them.

Not when we feel like it – because that is always our excuse –

“I am just not ready to forgive them”

When has God ever given us a command and said, do it, when you are ready?

Never

What God tells us is – if we want His grace and mercy poured down in our lives forgive other people in the same way I have forgiven you.

It is not an option.

It is not an open question.

It is not when you are ready.

We don't forgive other people for ourselves – we forgive other people because God commanded us to forgive other people.

What we will be doing as we walk in the light – is that we will be having constant fellowship with God throughout the day.

We will be in constant communication with God and one of the things that we will get to experience in our lives is His joy.

**[Psa 63:3-5 NKJV] 3 Because Your lovingkindness [is] better than life, My lips shall praise You. 4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise [You] with joyful lips.**

Another thing that will happen as we walk in the light is fellowship with one another.

Remember, God is light

Everything is exposed – there are no secrets – there are no hidden things.

So when there is joy in our life – our brothers and sisters will be there to rejoice with us

And when there is sorrow in our life – our brothers and sisters will be there to weep with us.

True fellowship among the brethren is one of the most satisfying things on the face of the earth.

But there is something else that happens when we walk in the light – the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Someone might say, “Wait a minute, if you are walking in the light – that means you are not sinning – so why would you need cleansing?”

Here is the thing church –

Walking in the light doesn't mean we are walking in sinless perfection.

In fact, when we are walking in the light – we are sinning all the time.

Because when we are walking in the light and we mess us – we become aware that we have messed up.

And so we bring it to the Father and He cleanses us from sin

John is simply saying the one who walks in fellowship with God will find forgiveness for any sin that might enter his or her life.

In fact, such forgiveness is already provided for by the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross.

This is not to encourage sin – but to encourage holiness.

Because through it – we experience His mercy and His grace upon our life.

I had you make a note of the phrase, **cleanses us from all sin**, it is in the present tense.

The reason that it is important is because it means that it keeps on purifying and keeps on cleansing over and over again.

It cleanses us from our past sins.

It cleanses us from our present sins.

And it cleanses us from our future sins.

Right now!!!

Do you mean that the blood of Jesus provides an everlasting fountain of cleansing?

The answer is yes!

This is what the bible is claiming to do –

To take people and change them forever – as we are made new in Christ

By the way –



These first seven verses of this very small epistle gives us clues to whether or not we have a right relationship with Christ.

Do you enjoy having fellowship with the people of God?

Do you have joy?

Do you walk in light or do you walk in darkness?

To recap –

What is the basis of our fellowship?

Jesus

What breaks our fellowship? Sin

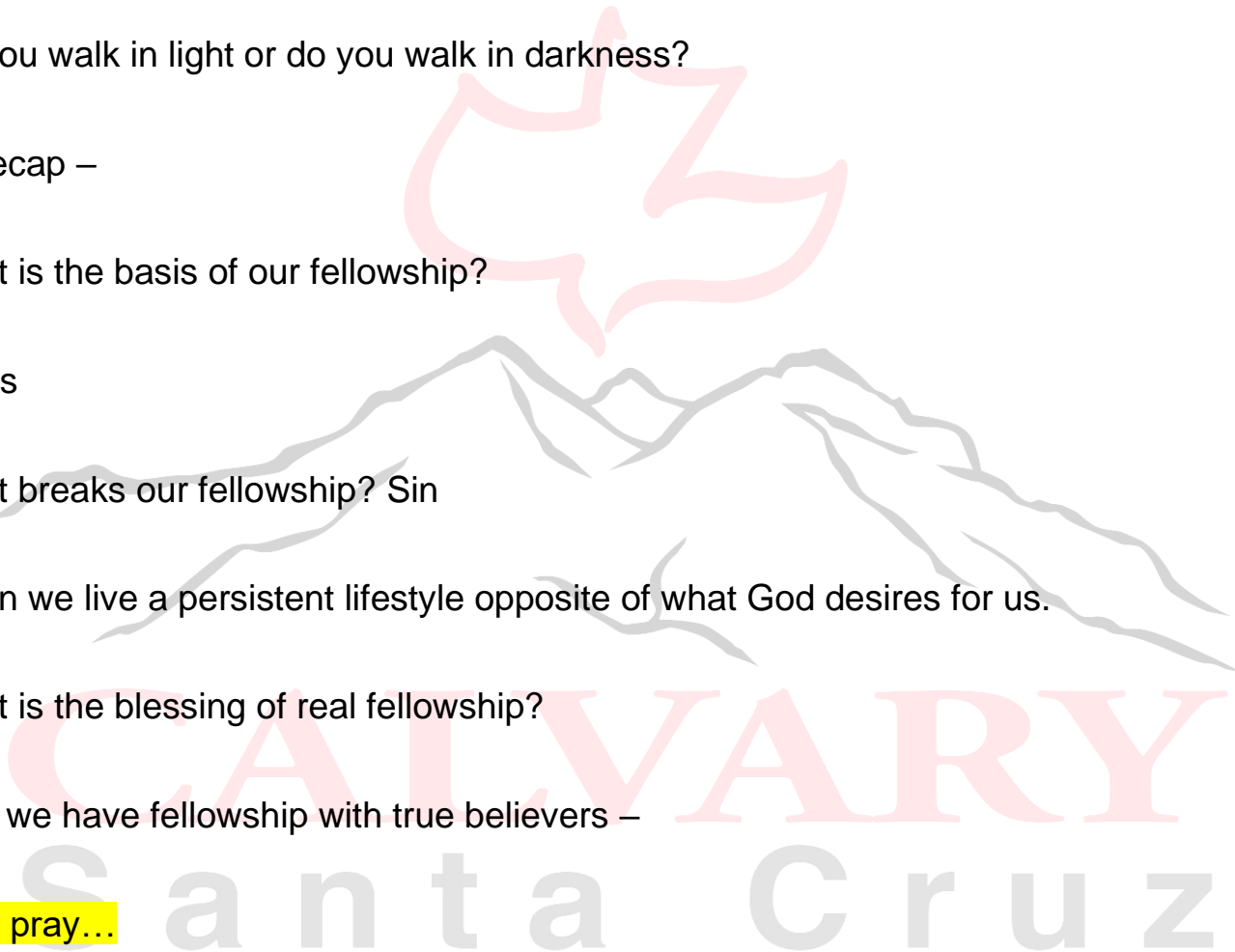
When we live a persistent lifestyle opposite of what God desires for us.

What is the blessing of real fellowship?

That we have fellowship with true believers –

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:



Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

This is a reminder that there is fresh forgiveness available.

Whether it is your sin or sin against you – there is forgiveness this morning.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

