

## True Fellowship With God Part II

### *Requires a Biblical View Of Sin*

(I John 1:5-2:2)

#### Introduction:

1. John is writing to believers and the focus of his message (at least in the first several verses) is having true fellowship with God.
  - Since our (which would include those who believe in Jesus Christ – **The Word of Life**) fellowship; is “with the Father and with His son Jesus Christ”; then it would be right and true to conclude that we must follow and live what Jesus taught.
  - Further, Jesus instructed His disciples that He would not leave them alone and that a Helper would come (The Holy Spirit); “I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.....but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:16-17, 26)
2. It is with all of this in mind that we (those who follow Christ) must understand that there is a consistent pattern of behavior for the believer; which is the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_, and living \_\_\_\_\_. (I Peter 1:14-16)
  - Although sin is present in our lives (I John 1:8), the follower of Christ is free from pursuing it and is no longer in bondage to it. (Romans 8:1-7)
  - This is called sanctification which is; \_\_\_\_\_ to God and \_\_\_\_\_ from the world....something that John will address in these next several verses.

## The Source of Our Fellowship (I John 1:5)

1. John declares to his readers that “God is \_\_\_\_\_ and in Him there is no \_\_\_\_\_ at all” (I John 1:5)
  - Those who received John’s letter were believers and they would understand that John is stating that God is Holy and without sin.
  - Only a fool would claim that God is anything but Holy and perfect
  - A believer (one who follows Christ) would understand that it is from that source that our salvation rests. The Apostle Paul declared; “He made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (II Corinthians 5:21)
2. When we profess Christ as our Savior and Lord; God calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light. (I Peter 2:9)
  - We are now children of \_\_\_\_\_ (I Thessalonians 5:5)
  - **A distinguishing mark of a non believer** is that they will \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_ the light and run from it. ( I John 3:19-20)
  - **A distinguishing mark of a believer** is they will \_\_\_\_\_ the light and run to it. (I John 3:21)
  - As we continue to walk in the light, the deeds of darkness are exposed and the process of sanctification causes us to flee the darkness. (Ephesians 5:1-21)
    - 1) “Be \_\_\_\_\_ of God” (Ephesians 5:1)
    - 2) “Walk in \_\_\_\_\_” (Ephesians 5:2)
    - 3) “Walk as children of the \_\_\_\_\_” (Ephesians 5:8)
    - 4) “Don’t participate in the unfruitful deeds of \_\_\_\_\_” (Ephesians 5:11)

## Contrasting Light and Darkness

1. In regards to sin (this is the subject John is dealing with) there is no middle ground or gray area.
  - “God is \_\_\_\_\_ and in Him there is no darkness at all”
    - 1) God does not \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) With God there is \_\_\_\_\_
  - **John is making a clear distinction between light and darkness for they cannot coexist in the same place**
2. Since John is writing to believers we must understand that a believer can commit sin
  - If we walk in the \_\_\_\_\_ (pursue God who is the light) then \_\_\_\_\_ (sin) will go away
  - If we pursue \_\_\_\_\_ (darkness) then the \_\_\_\_\_ (pursuit of God) goes away
3. A consistent pattern for a believer is to pursue the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than pursue \_\_\_\_\_.
4. An inconsistent pattern for the believer is to pursue \_\_\_\_\_, for when he/she does it impacts our fellowship with God.
  - When a believer who claims to be in fellowship with God and yet actively pursues darkness (sin), he/she are not living/walking in truth and in need of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. (I John 1:6, 9)
  - In addition, when a believer who claims to be in fellowship with God and thinks he/she is without sin or incapable of sinning – they are in fact only lying to themselves. This is nothing more than self righteous hypocrisy.....something the Pharisees were guilty of.
5. Pursuing \_\_\_\_\_ is consistent with our new nature (II Corinthians 5:17)

## **The Solution for Continual Fellowship**

1. A believer should recognize they are still capable of committing sin. No one other than Jesus was above this, not even the Apostles. (I John 1:8, Romans 7:14-8:39)
2. Pursue the \_\_\_\_\_ (righteousness) rather than pursuing \_\_\_\_\_ (sin).
  - Our new nature directs us to pursue right things (righteousness) and it is therefore consistent with that new nature to imitate Christ;
    - 1) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control, against such things there is no law” Galatians 5:22-23)
    - 2) “Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence, and if anything worthy of praise, **dwelt on these things**”. (Philippians 4:8)
    - 3) “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude” (Colossians 2:6-7)
    - 4) “Therefore be imitators of God, as dear children” (Ephesians 5:1)
    - 5) “For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord, walk as children of the Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness, and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord”. (Ephesians 5:8-10)
  - Our new nature drives us to pursue \_\_\_\_\_ and empowers us to say no to \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 8:1-4, Romans 12:1-20)
  - **Since believers are still capable of sinning then flee \_\_\_\_\_ (darkness) and pursue the \_\_\_\_\_ (righteousness) for this is where genuine fellowship for the believer and God truly rests.**

3. In those moments where fellowship is broken due to our (**a believer**) pursuit of sin, God has provided a continual means of restoration of that fellowship.
- If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9)
  - Furthermore as believers we can rest in the fact that when we do sin, “we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and He Himself is the propitiation (covering) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for those of the whole world” (I John 2:1-2)
- 1) It is because Jesus died on the cross and made atonement for our sins that we have access to God in the first place.
  - 2) He (Jesus) who knew no sin took our sin upon himself, so that we could become the righteous of God in Him.
  - 3) John is telling us that Jesus is the sacrifice for the sins of the world, and for those who accept Him as that sacrifice (propitiation), He becomes their Advocate (One who comes alongside of us in our defense) to declare our debt has been paid through His shed blood on the cross. (Romans 6:23, Hebrews 4:15-16, Hebrews 7:23-28)
  - 4) John is telling us that when we sin (even as believers), that God’s forgiveness continually extends to us because Jesus is our Advocate who continually declares our debt has been paid in full.
  - 5) “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9)
- The more we walk in the light, the more the darkness is exposed.....so walk in the light.
4. The more we walk in the light the less confession of sin is needed because darkness (**sin**) and light (**God**) do not co-exist....therefore pursue the light rather than pursue darkness.