



5/18/26

What a great message on oneness yesterday. I loved the Tony Evans quote, "Unity is oneness of purpose, not sameness of persons." I'm so glad that God did not make us all robots! Even with our differences, we can work together and make something more beautiful than we could on our own. God's plan is so good!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 John 1:1-10

As we walk through what it is to build a godly home, I can't help but think 1 John will give me a very full understanding of what this looks like. It includes understanding why God is worthy of my worship, the importance of abiding in the Lord, and the call to love by brothers and sisters as a model of my love for Him. So I'm looking forward to walking through the book of 1 John over the next several weeks. I pray the Lord will show me how this book of the Bible applies to my marriage, and to all relationships.

John, an apostle and one of the twelve disciples who walked with Jesus for three years, had the cool opportunity to write as a firsthand witness to Jesus' love and ministry.

Vs. 1-4 ~ "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."

From the beginning of time and from the beginning of Jesus' ministry, the message never changed. John had the opportunity to witness the consistency of God's message as he heard Him speak, saw His miracles and works, and even touched Him with his own hands... like when

Jesus washed his feet on the night He was betrayed... or like when Jesus told the disciples to see and touch His scars after He rose from the dead. John was so emphatic about the message because John experienced the presence of God in the face of Jesus... up close and personal for three years.

He said the testimony he was proclaiming over and over is this, "Jesus is the word of life." As he said in his gospel account of Jesus in John 1:1, 4, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." The Greek word for "life" here is zoe. This is speaking to the fact that Jesus, the word, is eternal life. He is the way to eternal life. John saw this displayed in His personal ministry as he walked with Him for 3 years.

What was his purpose for sharing this? He wanted all people to turn to God and have fellowship with him as his fellowship was with the Father and the Son, Jesus. This is the beauty of true faith in Christ. Fellowship... this is way more than just getting together with someone. This is a deep connection of oneness with the Father, the Son, and each other. Loving God is never done in a vacuum. To love the Lord IS to love everyone else, too. To be in true fellowship with the Father and the Son IS to be in true fellowship with all believers.

John had one other purpose for writing this letter... "so that our joy may be complete." When someone is truly devoted to the Lord, it isn't enough to have a personal faith... like those who say, "My faith is personal. I don't have to go to church to connect with God." That's missing it. To truly be devoted to God is to want to share that with others. It completes our joy. There's no rivalry when we're secure in the Lord. We can be excited to see other believers get excited about the Lord because it only makes our fellowship with the Lord and others sweeter.

Vs. 5-7 ~ "This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But 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 cleanses us from all sin."

There will be several "messages" shared about God and our relationship with Him in this book. The first one is this... God is light and in Him is no darkness AT ALL. This is so huge. Nothing about God is dark or evil. He is light. As His light beams over Him and through Him, I could stare at Him all day long and not find one speck of darkness or dust on Him. Everything about Him is pure and good.

So... the thing about fellowship with God is... to be with Him is to become like Him. It's like a toddler spending time with his dad. He starts to take on his dad's mannerisms and uses a lot of his phrases as they do life together. To spend time with my Heavenly Father is to take on His mannerisms and to talk like Him as we do life together. So... if I SAY I have fellowship with Him, but I walk in the darkness where evil lives, I'm a liar. "Actions speak louder than words."

The proof of my fellowship with the Lord will be found in how and where I walk. The Lord

wants me to walk in the light AS He is in the light. If I'm not sure what walking in the light looks like, I need to study the way Jesus walked. I don't decide what walking in the light looks like. He does.

Here's the beautiful thing about the call to walk in His light. It doesn't mean that He expects perfection from me. He KNOWS I'm still going to sin this side of heaven. But because I walk in His light, the blood of Jesus cleanses my sin. I find great comfort in that!

Vs. 8-10 ~ "If we say 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. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

Not only does God not expect perfection from me, but He absolutely knows that I cannot be perfect while I live on this earth. He says if I deny that I sin I'm a liar, I make Him a liar, the truth is not in me, and His word is not in me. Yikes! Who denies their sin? Those who don't really know the Lord, or who have hardened their hearts against the Lord.

The very first part of being saved by God through Jesus is first admitting that I'm in need of saving. To say I don't sin is to say I don't need the Lord. There's no way the truth or His word can be in me if I'm denying that I sin because His word is the truth, and it reveals all the ways I don't measure up to the holiness of God.

It's so important that I'm always examining my heart and confessing sin to the Lord. When I try to cover up my sin or pretend it doesn't exist, my heart gets harder and harder against the Lord. It doesn't mean that I lose my salvation, but it does drastically hurt my relationship with the Lord and with others. God does not want me to confess sin so that He can shame or condemn me. He wants me to confess my sin to Him so that He can free me! Confessing and turning from sin to the Lord is liberating!

Here's the promise I have from the Lord. If I confess my sins to Him... that is, if I agree with the Lord that what I've done is wrong and ask for His help to turn from it... He forgives my sins AND He cleanses me from all unrighteousness.

First, He is faithful and just to forgive me. He is faithful because that's the promise He's made. He's just because my punishment was already paid for by Jesus. O Lord, please help me not to take that for granted.

After He forgives me He also faithfully and justly cleanses me from all unrighteousness. It's one thing to grant a criminal a verdict of not guilty. But without help, that criminal just goes right back out on the street and starts committing the crime again. The Lord cleanses me from the unrighteousness that motivated me to sin in the first place. He cleans me up so that I don't even want to do the things I once did wrong. He actually brings me to a place where I'm repulsed by those behaviors I once celebrated... like justifying anger against my husband and others, spinning words to try to make myself look better, fighting for positions of honor and

resenting when I don't have them... and He helps me to start doing the things that please Him... like seeing myself as a sinner before pointing my finger at others, showing people grace, giving people honor and considering their needs before mine... things that display His word and His truth abiding in me. That is a wonderful, liberating thing.

When I'm pursuing the Lord as I walk in His light, pursuing unity with others is not something I make myself do, but something the Lord does in me... and with Him working in me, that makes fellowship with others deeper, richer, and much more authentic. Everything always starts with Jesus.

O Lord, I pray that You'll help me not to just go through the motions. Help me to see the beauty of confessing my sin to You. Pride will keep me from fellowship with You and others. Please remove all the arrogance from my heart. Help me to love walking in Your light. Help me to stay far from the darkness. Show me where I'm drifting toward the darkness and deliver me. I love the fellowship I get to have with You, and the fellowship I get to have with others when You're at the center of it! All because of You. All for Your glory.