

## Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of April 30, 2023

1 John 1:5-10

Sermon Series: *Absolutely!*

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### HOW DO YOU KNOW?

If someone says that they \_\_\_\_\_, how would one know if it is true?

- are in love with someone . . .
- are committed to a cause . . .
- are in fellowship with God . . .

### LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

One of the lead questions of this book of the Bible is 'Am I in fellowship with God?' The word "know," or one of its cognates, is used 39 times. {LEADERS: The "If" / "Then" statements are found throughout this letter. Perhaps, more than any other letter, John clarifies what it means to be in fellowship with God. Much more to come." We will see it more times as we walk through 1 John. The author wants us to "know" that we are in fellowship with God. Our passage for this week will speak to one aspect of the answer. Let's dig in. Read 1 John 1:5-10.

The author begins by appealing to the character of God, that "God is light." How is this connected with His desire for people to have fellowship with God?

The Greek word translated as "fellowship" is *koinonia*. The root of this word means 'to hold or share in common.' Those who are "in Christ" will begin to take on the character of God. In this letter, John focuses on "light" and "love" as characteristics of God.

List the five "If" statements and the corresponding "then" statements (some are implied).(NIV) v.6: IF

THEN v. 7 IF

THEN v. 8 IF

THEN v. 9 IF

THEN v.10 IF

THEN

What is the main point of these statements?

These are conditions or qualifications that demonstrate the veracity of something. If a certain condition does or does not exist, then this is a demonstration of the status.

What are the promises of this passage?

- If we have fellowship with God through faith in Jesus, then we have been purified from all sin
- If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us and purify us from all unrighteousness

What are the warnings?

- If we walk in darkness then we are not in fellowship with God
- If we claim to be without sin, then we are deceived and without the truth of God.
- If we claim we have not sinned, we call God a liar (who says we have sinned) and we are without His word (His expression of life through the Word)

Comments about verse nine:

- "Faithful" means that God is "faithful" to His promises to forgive.
- God is "just" or "righteous" and does not simply dismiss our sins. Rather, Jesus took on our sins and gave us His righteousness. So when we place our faith in Jesus, God is "just" to cleanse us.
- Does this mean to confess once and we are pure? Yes. We know that once we place our trust in Jesus, He fully cleanses us. However, John is addressing having a relationship of fellowship with God. Therefore, he is also pointing to a posture of humility in that fellowship. Therefore, a part of that healthy relationship would include regular confession of sins and knowing that we are cleansed and forgiven.

### **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

It is wonderful news that through Jesus, we can live in fellowship with God and one another. What does this fellowship in your life look like? While it is sometimes easier to focus on fellowship with one another because of physical presence, this book will regularly ask us questions about our relationship with God. For this week, here's the question: "Do you see that you are walking in the light? Does your life have a pattern of stuck in sin or of growing in righteousness? Of joy in Jesus?"

### **DISCUSS IT TOGETHER**

What do we learn about the character of God in this chapter?

God is light, righteous, ready to forgive, just /righteous, faithful to His promises, and desires to have fellowship with us.

He also knows and declares that we have a sin problem that only Jesus's works can lead to our purity and forgiveness.

According to chapter one, what did Jesus accomplish on the cross?

Jesus accomplished propitiation for our sin so that we might be purified, the way for us to be in fellowship with God, He brought us the truth, He is the Word – the fullness of God's expression to us.

Why is confession of sin important in our relationship with God?

This passage and book of the Bible reveals that God is not desiring to establish a religious order but instead, wants us to be in a relationship of fellowship. In this relationship, like all relationships, sin causes distance and division, and stops the growth and health. Confession is important in our relationship with God in order that we (1) see the character of God (compassionate, gracious, forgiving, slow to answer, loving), (2) recognize our character that is not yet conformed to God's character, and (3) draws us near to God who gives grace to the humble but opposes the proud.

### **PRAYER**

This is our **Week of Prayer**. Please go to our website or our app to see "the daily prayer prompts." Also, Thursday is the National Day of Prayer. We are joining on campus to pray. (see times on website)

**Praying that your fellowship with God and one another is rich and growing,**

**Steve**