



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Preaching Passage: 1 John 1:1-10

Sermon Series: Foundations

Sermon Title: Our Values – Sanctifying Community

Date: February 10, 2019

Preacher: Bart Box

**Sanctifying Community:** *Our sinful instinct is to hide—to hide our failings, to hide from one another, and, ultimately, to hide from God. To fight that instinct, we desire for every member at CFC to engage intentionally honest, hopeful, Christ-centered community where they can find the grace, healing, strength, and encouragement they need.*

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) How have you always understood the idea of eternal life? How is eternal life described in 1 John (read aloud 1 John 1:2; 2:25; 3:15; 5:11, 13, 20; see also John 5:24)? How should these verses shape your heart, your desires, and your hopes, both for you and others?
- 2) How do we short-circuit the path to eternal life? (see vv. 5-10) Discuss the “if we say” statements in vv. 6, 8, 10. How can we fall into these errors practically, even if we admit we are sinners formally?
- 3) What is the basis of genuine fellowship in the church? (see v. 7)
- 4) Why do we fear honesty about sins? How does the gospel speak to that fear? (see v. 9)
- 5) Church membership can seem very “institutional” and can sound very heavy-handed to some people. How would you communicate the value and meaningfulness of church membership to an unbeliever or even a believer who is skeptical about formally joining a church?
- 6) Bart quoted John Wesley’s prescription for small groups: “That everyone in order speak as freely, plainly and concisely as he can the real state of his heart, with his several temptations and deliverances, since the last time of meeting.”
  - a. [Q] What stands out to you in that quote?
  - b. [Q] In what ways can we carry this out?
  - c. [Q] How are ways that avoid this kind of honesty and transparency?

- 7) Near the end of the sermon, Bart talked about the gentleness and humaneness needed for real transparency to thrive.
  - a. **[Q]** How can you grow in gentleness?
  - b. **[Q]** Are you actively pursuing other brothers and sisters for the sake of their joy in Christ?
  
- 8) [For gender-specific groups/prayer nights] What are some areas you are hiding?
  - a. Spend time confessing sins together and encouraging one another in Christ?
  - b. Also, are you structuring your life so that this is a repeated, continual part of your discipleship? How can you grow in this area?