

This Week

Churchwide

Worship Services

Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM

Bible Fellowships

Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM

GriefShare

Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM in the Library

Safeguarding Your Children

Saturday, 10:00–12:00 AM in the Tejas Room

Small Groups

Community Groups

Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM at Various Homes

Adult Studies

The Book of Matthew

Wednesday, 6:30–7:30 AM in the Dining Room

The Feast Days of Israel

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Tejas Room

What Did You Expect?

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 209

Men

Solid Answers to Serious Questions

Tuesday, 6:00–7:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft

Samson Society

Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

Friday Morning Study

Friday, 6:30–7:30 AM in the Tejas Room

Women

Engage: Understanding Purpose

Monday, 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 209

The Armor of God

Tuesday, 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 208

Understanding and Helping People

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Mesquite Room

MOMs Study: Calm My Anxious Heart

Thursday, 10:00–11:30 PM in Room 208

Senior Adults

Tuesday Afternoon Study

Tuesday, 1:00–2:00 PM in Room 111

College & Career

Late Night

Tuesday, 7:00–8:30 PM at The G.Y.M.

Senior High

Senior High Youth

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM at The G.Y.M.

Junior High

Junior High Youth

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM at The G.Y.M.

5th & 6th Grade

Breakaway

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft

Children

Kids' Quest

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Children's Area

This Morning

Lesson 2: The First Step—*1 John 1:5–2:2*

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

I. The basis for fellowship with God: The disclosure about God's holiness is the basis for fellowship with Him—*1 John 1:5*.

II. The principles of maintaining fellowship with God: There are three foundational principles essential to maintain fellowship with God—*1 John 1:6–2:2*.

A. Note on structure: This section contains three possible, yet false, claims about having fellowship with God, each of which is followed by the way to maintain fellowship with Him—*1 John 1:6–2:2*.

B. Principle #1: Walking in the light counteracts our natural tendency to avoid being exposed to the truth about our inherent sinfulness—*1 John 1:6–7*.

1. We may falsely claim to be in fellowship with God at the same time we are closed to the possible exposure of sin in our lives—*1 John 1:6a*.

2. To be closed to the possible eruption of sin in our lives, while claiming to have fellowship with God, is a lie and is inconsistent with the truth about the nature of indwelling sin—*1 John 1:6b*.

3. Living with an openness to the penetrating power of God's Word to expose sin in our lives allows us to maintain fellowship with Him—*1 John 1:7*.

C. Principle #2: Confessing known sins allows us to maintain fellowship with God and counteract our propensity to be deceived about our own sinfulness—*1 John 1:8–9*.

1. Because we are not conscious of any specific sin in our lives, we may erroneously insist that none exist—*1 John 1:8a*.

2. To automatically assume that we have not personally sinned, because we are unaware of any, is a lie and indicates that God's Word is not directing our lives—*1 John 1:8b*.

3. God's provision to deal with known sins is to confess them to Him—*1 John 1:9*.

D. Principle #3: Jesus Christ's ministry as our Defense Attorney counteracts our natural tendency to deny our sins due to the fear of being rejected by God —*1 John 1:10–2:2*.

1. We may foolishly try to dismiss our sins, rather than confess them to God—*1 John 1:10a*.

2. To fail to confess exposed sins is essentially calling God a liar and indicates that His Word is not the guiding force in our lives—*1 John 1:10b*.

3. As our defense attorney, Jesus Christ intercedes for us regarding our failures, restoration, and future usability (Luke 22:31–32)—*1 John 2:1–2*.

Discussion

These questions are offered each week to facilitate further discussion of this morning's topic in small group settings such as Community Groups or over dinner with family and friends. We hope you find them helpful to your spiritual growth.

1. What do you think actually happened to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–2)? In what ways is God physical, moral, and intellectual *light*? Which do you think John has in mind in 1 John 1:5?

2. How is God being *light* the basis for our fellowship with Him?

3. What is the underlying problem with making the claim mentioned in verse 6? How is the problem resolved in verse 7? What does it mean to “walk in the light,” and what are the benefits of doing so?

4. Have you ever assumed you'd done something perfectly, but later discovered it didn't turn out that way? How does that experience affirm the truth found in verse 8? How does the promise in verse 9 help us address the fact that we aren't God and can't know everything—even about ourselves?

5. Why is a clear understanding of Jesus' role (1 John 2:1–2) important in developing a responsible, healthy attitude about our personal sins?