

“**Community**” is defined as “a group of people who have the same interest.” The Bible word for community is “**fellowship.**” It is the Greek word *Koinonia* = *to have things in common.*

Biblical Fellowship is the setting aside of personal desires and the joining with one another for the common purpose of honoring Christ.

Threefold Theme of 1 John

1. Connect to Community - Through Commitment
2. Build Community – Through acts of true love
3. Protect Community – Know how to identify and reject false teaching

The False Teaching John Wrote About...

1. Compromised the person and work of Jesus Christ.
2. Minimized the seriousness of sin and personal holiness.
3. Placed the individual rights (autonomy) over community.

Justification: Is a divine act whereby God judicially declares a believing sinner to be justified, righteous, and acceptable before Him because of Christ’s work on the cross. It is on the basis of faith alone, grace alone, and not by human merit. A justified believer emerges from God’s courtroom with a consciousness that another, a substitute (Christ) bore his guilt and punishment and that he stands without condemnation or accusation before God. **Romans 3:21-29, 5:18-19, 8:1, 10:1-4 Romans 3:24** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

*1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²And He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

Hebrews 4:12-14, Psalm 51, 2Corinthians 7:9-10

When the great accuser takes our sins before God to see us condemned, Jesus holds up his nailed-scarred hand to silence the devil.

Why Should It Matter to Me When I Sin?

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| 1. Sin dishonors God. | 1 Corinthians 10:31 |
| 2. Sin is disloyalty to Christ. | Matthew 6:33 |
| 3. Sin deceives the person sinning.
<i>(It causes one to distort God, self, & others)</i> | 2 Peter 1:8-10 |
| 4. Sin discourages the church family. | Ephesians 3:21 |
| 5. Sin damages your testimony. | Matthew 5:14-16 |

Proverbs 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy

1 John 1:8-10 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

Propitiation: It carries the idea of appeasement or satisfaction. In the New Testament, propitiation always referred to the work of God, not of man. Man is utterly incapable of satisfying God's justice on his own. Christ's atoning death altered man's position with God. God accepted what Christ did on the sinner's behalf. The Old Testament picture of propitiation was the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies. Christ became our Mercy Seat once and for all. **Romans 3:15, 1 John 2:1**

1 John 4:10-11 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*

1 John 2:3-6 *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

Sanctification: Means to set apart unto God in regards to salvation and service. It can be translated "holy." All believers have been sanctified in Christ Jesus and are "saints." In the Biblical sense every believer today is just as sanctified in regards to salvation as just as much as the Apostle Paul. **Romans 6:11-14-22, 7:14-25, 8:9-14**

- A. **Positional Sanctification** – salvation, a one-time event. This is secure because of Christ!
- B. **Practical or Progressive Sanctification** – this is the growing or maturing process of every believer whereby we are becoming more like Christ.

Conversation Starters

1. What is the Threefold Theme of 1 John?
2. Why does it matter when I sin?
3. Explain "justification" and "propitiation" in a sentence.

My Assignment: (1) Write out and Pray **Psalm 119:18**. (2) Read **1 John** this week and take notes.