

# The First Epistle of John

## (Week 3 – 1John 1:5-7)

### I. Week 2 Quiz

- A. Have the disciples do the quiz before class starts
- B. Go over the answers by way of asking.

### II. \*Fellowship

#### A. Question: How do you define “fellowship?”

#### B. The Greek:

1. “*Koinonia*” – partnership, participation, sharing in common
  - a. Derived from “*koinos*” – common; belonging to several
    - i. Acts 2:44; 4:32 – uses this term to denote how the disciples shared things
    - ii. Titus 1:4 – uses this term to denote a shared faith
    - iii. Jude 1:3 – uses this term to denote a shared salvation
    - iv. Sometimes it’s used in a negative light, that is, ‘unclean,’ like a common shower stall
      - Acts 10:14 – common or unclean foods
      - Acts 10:28 – common men (Gentiles)
  - b. The usage of “*koinonia*” in the New Testament
    - i. Contribution – Romans 15:26
      - Have you ever thought of contribution as fellowship?
    - ii. Participation – 1Cor. 10:16
      - Have you ever thought of the Lord’s Supper as fellowship?
    - iii. Expressions of faith – Philemon 1:6
      - Have you ever thought of your “*faith-actions*” as fellowship?
    - iv. The usage of this Greek term denotes an action
      - Fellowship is not just “being together,” but it is a “doing together”
      - Fellowship is not just “doing together” but is a “doing with Christ” – it is a partnership with Christ in fulfilling the will of God on earth.
      - Fellowship is not hanging out, eating food, watching a game or playing a sport with other disciples.
      - You can basically say that fellowship is defined as an inner partnership with Christ, expressing itself in actions that accomplish God’s will in this world – whether it be a sharing of your faith, home, food, clothing, money, time, etc.

### III. 1John 1:5-7 – Walking In The Light (Part 1)

*ESV: 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. (6) If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) 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.*

#### A. “(5a) The message we have heard from Him (*that is, the Word of life, Jesus Christ*) and proclaim to you”

##### 1. Question: What is implied by this statement?

- a. A true believer will embrace whatever Jesus says!
- b. It is the mark of a true disciple (John 8:31)
- c. True fellowship with God is expressed by embracing Christ’s words!
- d. Many profess to be followers, yet question, reject or modify the very words of Jesus in order to appease their desires!
- e. In context, the Gnostics claimed that Jesus came to bring a secret knowledge and that He really didn’t come in the flesh
- f. John, on the other hand, was about to share what he himself heard from the Christ!
- g. Question: And what was that message? (verse 5)

#### B. “(5b) God (*that is, the Father*) is light and in Him is no darkness at all”

##### 1. Despite the Gnostic teachings, the God of Abraham; the Creator of the universe is light!

- a. He is not some created, corrupt, creator-god that is withholding some ‘secret knowledge’ from his creation
  - i. To some, God was a being filled with hatred and vengeance
  - ii. Yet, Jesus came to reveal that God is light!
    - Although “light” can point to the glory of God as in the case of 1Timothy 6:16, where it says God dwells in unapproachable light!
    - Here, John is using the term “light” to refer to God’s holiness, since light is compared to darkness (sin) in this passage.
    - If one is to have fellowship with God, he or she must first and foremost understand that God is light! (cf. Psalm 92:15)
      - God is perfectly pure, without a hint of sin
      - He has perfect knowledge, without a hint of ignorance
      - He is infinitely happy, with nothing to make Him miserable

##### iii. Question: Why do you think John started out by introducing God’s holiness instead of God’s love?

- First, without God’s holiness, one can never understand the plan of salvation through the cross of Christ!
- Second, starting with God’s holiness exposes all false claims of having fellowship with God!
  - Many claim to have fellowship with God back then as well as today!

- b. Fellowship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ, involves the following:
  - i. Accepting the fact that God is light
    - Accepting this truth means whatever God says is to be embraced as righteousness and truth
    - His doctrines and commands should never be compromised, challenged or rejected.
  - ii. **Question: Being that God is light, how should His children walk?**
    - Remember when we covered 1Peter?
      - 1Peter 1:14-16 ESV, “*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, (15) but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’*”
    - This leads us to verse 6...

C. “(6a) *If we say we have fellowship with him...*”

1. In other words:
  - a. Remember the definition of “fellowship?”
  - b. If we say, “We are participants of God”
  - c. If we say, “We are partners with Christ”
  - d. If we say, “We share in His holiness, His joy, His will, His hatred for sin”
  - e. YET... (vs. 6b...)

D. “(6b) *while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*”

1. John is refuting libertinism!
  - a. As we learned, some Gnostic groups taught libertinism
  - b. Other heretical groups, like the Nicolaitans (Rev. 2), according to the Ante-Nicean writers, practiced sexual immorality and eating foods sacrificed to idols.
2. This philosophy contradicts the message of Christ:
  - a. John 3:20, 21 ESV, “*...everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light... But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God*”
3. Thinking that one can have fellowship with God while living in the practice of sin is a powerful delusion!
  - a. **Question: Why is this way of thinking deceptive?**

E. “(7) *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.*”

1. Fellowship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ also involves:
  - a. Walking in the light (cf. 1John 3:7; John 3:21; 1Peter 4:1-3)
2. The result:
  - a. The cleansing of our sins by the blood of Christ
    - i. Lord willing, we will get into more detail as to how this cleaning takes place as we continue our study of this great epistle! (ex. 1John 1:9)