

The First Epistle of John

(Week 4 – 1John 1:8-9)

I. Week-3 Quiz

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

II. Walking in the light (part1) involves:

- A. Recognizing God's holiness (God is light)
- B. Fellowshiping with God (sharing His holiness, will, hatred for sin, etc.)

III. Quick comment on 1John 1:7

A. Light exposes dust and dirt

1. As we walk in fellowship with Christ and the Father, that is, in the light, our imperfections are seen more clearly
2. Praise God the blood of Christ cleanses us as we walk in the light!
3. As we walk in the light, a life yielded to Christ, yielded to His will, yielded to His word, we have fellowship (partnership) with God, and the blood of Christ continues to cleanse us of imperfections!

IV. 1John 1:8-10 – Walking In The Light (Part 2)

ESV: If we say 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.

A. *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*

1. This was a doctrine being circulated by these false teachers

- a. Since John uses the present tense here (we have no sin), they were teaching that they were perfect!
 - i. Those who hold to this doctrine are deceived and do not have the truth!
 - ii. The reality is no one can say: “I am sinless!”
 - iii. The Greek word for “deceived” is “planao,” from which we get the word “planet.”
 - In ancient times, planets were believed to be wandering heavenly bodies!
 - Those who hold to such teachings are wanderers, directionless, that is, to be out of the way!
 - Jude 1:13 describes false teachers as wandering stars, condemned to darkness (a figure of Tartaroo, as used by Peter in 2Pt 2:4ff).
- b. **Question: How does this doctrine show itself today?**
 - i. This philosophy is present today, especially by those who do not see themselves as ‘sinners’ needed the Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - ii. Many think that they can go to Heaven without Jesus.
 - iii. As disciples, we have to be careful not to fall into this erroneous teaching:
 - Although we are saved and heaven-bound, we still have to deal with sin in our lives!
 - When we became Christians, we were given a new heart, that is, a new Spirit living within us!
 - This means, that we do not pursue sin habitually anymore.
 - Oh yes, we make bad choices, and we make mistakes, but we do not habitually pursue sin because God lives in us!

- But we will be struggling against sin while in the flesh!
- Galatians 5:16 says that if we walk by the Spirit, we will not gratify (that is, fulfill) the desires of the flesh!
- This passage clearly tells us that those fleshly desires will be present! They will be there as long as you are in the flesh!
- This is why the next verse says what it says...

B. (9) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*

1. Jesus taught the principle of confession in His model prayer in Luke 11:4.
2. John uses the present tense (if we confess...):
 - a. Confession is a continual event.
 - b. Part of having fellowship with God is dealing with sin!
 - i. Sin is weighty and it causes our countenance to fall
 - Remember Cain? When he sinned, God asked him, “why has your countenance fallen?” (Gen. 4:6)
 - It makes you gloomy; critical; judgmental; etc.
 - In the case of Cain, it drove him to kill his brother, Able!
 - And sin can cause us to kill our brothers and sisters with hate and bitterness and slander!
 - ii. Sin also causes us to fall out of fellowship with God
 - c. If we are walking in the light, if we have fellowship with God, we will hate the things God hates.
 - Since God hates sin, we hate sin; especially our own sin!
 - Be transparent regarding your own sin!
 - d. Praise God, when we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us!
 - i. If our confession is one that stems from a true attitude of repentance, which results in the renouncing the sin (Proverbs 28:13), then...
 - God, who is faithful, will forgive us and will cleanse us of sin!
 - Psalm 51 is a great example of confession of sin to God!
 - ii. **Walking in the light involves acknowledging our personal sins and confessing them with a view towards repentance.**
 - e. A side note:
 - i. Some try to use this passage to show that all one needs to do to become born again is to ask God to forgive them of sin!
 - Notice, this passage is addressing the professing Christian!
 - John says “*if we...*,” referencing the professing Christian!