

# The First Epistle of John

## (Week 5 – 1John 1:10-2:1)

- I. Week-4 Quiz
  - A. Have the disciples do the quiz before class starts
  - B. Go over the answers by way of asking.
  
- II. Quick Review:
  - A. Walking in the light involves:
    1. Recognizing God’s holiness (God is light)
    2. Fellowshiping with God (sharing His holiness, will, hatred for sin, etc.)
    3. Confessing sin
  
- III. 1John 1:10, “*If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us*”
  - A. **Question: How does this statement make Jesus a liar?**
    1. Jesus taught that His purpose for coming was to die for our sins!
    2. And if a person says “I didn’t sin,” that means Romans 3:23 is a lie, and Jesus’ statement about men needing salvation is a lie!
  
- IV. 1John 2:1 – Walking In The Light (Part 3)

*ESV: My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

  - A. “*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.*”
    1. *My little children...*
      - a. John addresses God’s people as a loving father would, with tenderness
      - b. Most likely, this suggests that John is advanced in age and in his Christian walk.
    2. *I am writing these things...*
      - a. **Question: What things is John referring to?**
        - i. That God is light
        - ii. If we walk in darkness, we don’t have fellowship with God
        - iii. If we walk in the light:
          - We have fellowship with one another
          - And the blood of Christ cleanses us
        - iv. Those who say they haven’t sinned are liars
        - v. If we confess our sins, He will forgive us
    3. *So that you may not sin...*
      - a. John is:
        - i. Discourage sinful behavior (Gnosticism) – Darkness!
        - ii. Encourage holy behavior – Light!
      - b. What is sin?
        - i. It comes from the Greek word “*hamartano*”
        - ii. Definition: “*To miss the mark*” (like missing a target)
        - iii. Think of the Christian walk as aiming at God’s target for you!
          - That target may be:
            - God’s instructions to you as a husband/father
            - God’s instructions to you as a wife/mother

- God's instructions to you as a single woman/man
    - Stewardship, etc.
  - When we go about things our way, instead of God's way, we miss the target: That is sin
  - Sometimes we sin without knowing it because we are not in the Word
    - How can we know God's target if we are not spending time in the Word?
      - a. The word gives us wisdom and insight (Psalm 119:98-99)
    - And how can we understand unless we ask God? (Psalm 119:125)
  - iv. When we choose to do things our way, rather than God's way, we have missed the mark – we have sinned.
- c. The Unsaved:
- i. Every lost person has missed and continues to miss the mark
    - Therefore, we should not be surprised when an unsaved person treat us badly or acts wrongfully
    - That person is under the control of the flesh and of the forces of darkness
- d. But the Saved:
- i. Their past sins are forgiven (cf. 2Peter 1:9)
  - ii. Their current sins are forgiven, as they walk in the light, confessing them (1John 1:7, 9)
  - iii. They are under the control of the Holy Spirit; The Holy Spirit enables them to put to death the deeds of the flesh. (Romans 8:13-14)
  - iv. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit:
    - A Christian can say "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*" – Phil. 4:13
    - Apart from Christ, we can do nothing (John 15:5)
    - The Spirit gives us the ability to conform to God's ways!
- e. Let's look at sin as the willful disobedience to a known law of God
- i. The following is to be asked without responses from the disciples (designed to merely convict if sin is present)
    - Personal Questions:
      - Is there anything in my life that I am not allowed the Holy Spirit, through His word, to control?
      - 1Corinthians 6:13 says my body is for the Lord: Am I using my body in an impure manner?
      - 2Timothy 2:4 says not to be entangled in the affairs of this world: Am I too busy to be in the Word? Am I too busy to be the spiritual leader I need to be? Am I spending more time on worldly things than in the work of the Lord?

- Matthew 5:43-48 says to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you: Do I pray for those who mistreat me or do I tend to slander them in front of others?
  - Ephesians 4:31 says to get rid of bitterness and anger: Am I holding on to bitterness and/or anger towards someone right now?
  - Does humility and patience characterize my walk and behavior towards others?
    - a. Humility is a proper attitude towards yourself; You don't think more highly of yourself than you think of somebody else.
    - b. Patience is your proper attitude towards others.
  - Proverbs 10:18 says those who spread slander are fools: Have I recently slandered others?
  - Hebrews 10:25 says not to neglect to meet together. Am I missing spiritual meetings because I rather sleep, watch a show, or indulge in some other secular activity?
- ii. In Greek grammar, there is something called “*aorist subjunctive*,” and “*aorist indicative*”
- “*Aorist Indicative*” is a “statement of fact” – that something, without fail, has occurred or will occur; nothing can stop it!
  - “*Aorist Subjunctive*” has to do with probability and possibility.
  - Aorist Subjunctive suggests that an event will happen given certain conditions
  - For example:
    - Romans 6:4 (ESV), “*We were buried (aorist indicative) therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised (aorist indicative) from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk (aorist subjunctive) in newness of life*”
    - Romans 6:6 (ESV), “*We know that our old self was crucified with him (aorist indicative) in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, (aorist subjunctive) so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin*”
    - 1John 2:1 (ESV), “*I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin (aorist subjective)*”
  - God is “marrying” the things accomplished in Christ to our daily walk! This is done through the gospel, which brings forgiveness of sins and the powerful indwelling of the Holy Spirit! (cf. Acts 2:38)
- iii. It is the Christian’s goal not to ‘miss the mark!’
- But if he misses the mark, John goes on to say...

4. *“But if anyone does sin (aorist subjunctive), we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous!”*
  - a. John, in a tender way, is saying: “My children, as a father cares for his children, so I care for you: Don’t miss the mark. But if you, I want to encourage you with this: If we confess to God that we’ve missed the mark (1John 1:9), if we come to Him with a sincere, remorseful heart, Jesus, our consoler and intercessor, will plead our case before the Father!”
    - i. Remember the tax collector in Luke 18:13-14?
    - ii. Remember king David in Psalm 51?
    - iii. These men were sincere in their confession and cried for mercy, because they truly loved God and were remorseful at the fact that they hurt God with their actions!
  - b. Advocate:
    - i. The Greek word is “parakletos”
      - Definition: an intercessor, a consoler, a comforter
      - In ancient Grecian times, it was used in court settings.
      - When someone was accused of something, someone would voluntarily, not by demand, step from the crowd, walk up, take his place beside the accused and speak on his behalf. He would speak in his defense.
      - That is exactly what John is talking about here. You see, in the courtroom of heaven, God the Father is the Judge as he pictures Him here. And every sin is subject to the judgment of God. God the Father is the one who sent His Son into the world to die for sin. Therefore, He is the one who is holding court here.
      - If we take Revelation 12:10 as an ongoing event, the devil runs to accuse us before the Father, day by day.
        - Jesus steps alongside of us, takes His place and defends us.
        - He speaks a word on our behalf. He is our Advocate. The idea is of a defense lawyer and He is always speaking on our behalf.
    - ii. Therefore, do not be misled into thinking that you blew your chances by missing the mark!

V. **Conclusion:**

- A. Close out in a prayer based on Psalm 51, asking God to have mercy on us, if there is any current sin lingering in our hearts!