

Fellowship in the Light

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I. Introduction.

- A. A man's sins are forgiven past, present and future when he accepts Christ.
- B. Text: I John 1.
- C. This book is written to believers.
- D. The book battles Gnosticism that taught that anything material is simple. Consequently, they denied that Christ came in the flesh.
- E. The theme of I John is fellowship with God.

II. The pleasure of fellowship.

- A. There are two kinds of fellowship—horizontal (with people) and vertical (with God).
- B. Christian fellowship requires proper fellowship with God.
- C. Christian fellowship is a tremendous joy. There is joy because there is joy in the presence of God. (Psalm 16:11)

III. The pattern of fellowship.

- A. Fellowship begins with who God is.
- B. God is light, so we must walk in light to have fellowship with God.
- C. It is easy to overlook sin in our lives.
- D. To walk in the light means to relate to whom God is. This means stepping into God's presence bravely.

IV. The provision for fellowship.

- A. One must recognize that he is culpable of sin. (John 9:41, 15:22-24, 19:11)
- B. Acknowledging our sins results in forgiveness because Christ is faithful to forgive. (I John 1:9)
- C. Provision for forgiveness should not result in abuse of the provision.
- D. If one sins, he should not despair because God has provided for the sins of the whole world.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean that there is joy in fellowship?

2. What does it mean to walk in the light?

3. Why must a person have an understanding of God's faithfulness in forgiving in order to walk with God? Explain.
