Man Who Rationalizes Sin

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I. Introduction.


B. Three conditions that interrupt the light that shines to us from the character and nature of God.
   1. Ignoring the light.
   2. Denying the possibility of sin.
   3. Rationalizing sin revealed in the light.

C. Subject: the reaction to those exposed by the light.

D. Some are concerned that they are experiencing a breakdown in faith.

E. The devil seeks this very reaction.

II. John makes a careful distinction between relationship and fellowship.

A. There is a difference between union with Christ and communion with Him.

B. The present willingness to keep Christ’s commandments is proof that a relationship with Him has begun.
   1. You cannot know God by trying to keep His commandments.
   2. Knowledge of God comes by faith in Jesus Christ—faith must come first.
   3. The one who keeps Jesus’ commands loves Him. (John 17, John 14:21)
   4. The ‘believer’ who disobeys Christ is a liar. An unchanged life is the sign of an unchanged heart. (Titus)

C. If there is a willingness to obey Christ, love of God is gradually taking over in one’s life. Relationship with Christ leads to fellowship with Christ. (Romans 5)

D. The marks of fellowship.
   1. One must abide and rest in Jesus in order to bear fruit. (John 15)
   2. One must walk in the same way as Jesus walked—He walked in total dependence upon the Father who indwelled Him.
   3. We are to expect God to supply us with power and continually consent to it.
a. This is difficult because it demands that we cut off our selfish life.

b. Jesus’ death produced in us means the old self must go.

c. Jesus’ life in us means the reproduction of the power of Jesus’ resurrection. (Philippians 3)

E. Let us not be counterfeiters but reflectors of Jesus’ life. (II Corinthians)

Application questions:

1. What is the difference between relationship and fellowship with Jesus?

2. How would you respond to someone who tells you that if you are disobedient you will lose your salvation? What would the Apostle John say?

3. What does it look like to be in fellowship with Christ? Who is an outstanding model of this for you in your own life? Why?