

# Man Who Rationalizes Sin

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I John 1:10-2:2.
- 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 indwelt 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?

---

---