

## 1<sup>st</sup> John Lesson 1 – Have No Fellowship With Darkness

**1Jn 1:1-4** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (2) (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) (3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (4) And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Jesus said His doctrine was not His but was given to Him by the Father.

**Joh 7:16** Jesus answered them, and said, **My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.**

One of the reasons Jesus is called the WORD made flesh is that He never once added to, took away from, or altered in any way the doctrine that had been taught Him by the Father. Not only His words, but in all His actions, He was the Word made flesh.

**Joh 14:9** Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?**

Jesus was the faithful Word of the Father. John is declaring he is doing the same thing regarding the word he saw and heard from Jesus. That which we have seen and heard ... we declare unto you. We have not added to, nor taken away, or altered in any way the gospel we received from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1Jn 1:5-9** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (8) If we say that 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.

John is declaring the same message Jesus taught in John chapter eight:

**Joh 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

The context was the woman caught in adultery, a perfect example of walking in darkness. Jesus was declaring that those who follow Him all the way into the new birth would have the same "light of life" in them that He had within Himself. By that process they would be set free from sin by the Son of God Himself.

**Joh 8:31-36** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (33)** They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? **(34)** Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. (35) And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. (36) If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

The doctrine of Jesus is: When a person is born again they receive the "light of life." It is the same "light of life" that Jesus had within Him. It would empower believers to walk free from sin the same way Jesus had walked free from sin, even though He was tempted in all points just like they were. John is boldly declaring, "If you are a Christian you will walk in the light of life and you will have fellowship with Christ. If you are saying you are a Christian, yet you are walking in darkness (example: adultery), you do not have fellowship with Him. You are a liar."

Jesus said His followers would not walk in darkness. You say you are His follower, yet you continue to walk in darkness. Jesus cannot lie so ... you are lying. If you are walking in darkness, you are not in fellowship with Him. The solution is for you to confess your sins, truly repent from them, and the blood of Jesus Christ will wash you clean again. You will be forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness. But you cannot continue to habitually walk in darkness and declare you are a Christian. Paul taught the same thing:

**1Co 5:9-11** I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: **(10)** Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. **(11)** But now I have written unto you not to keep company, **if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.**

Notice how John mentioned we have "fellowship with one another" but that is only as we are walking in the light. Paul is saying if a man is habitually walking in darkness and claims to be a Christian ... we are to have no fellowship with him. Why not? By withholding fellowship, we are declaring ... No matter how strongly this man claims to be a Christian, by his actions he is proving he is not a Christian. If I have fellowship with him, others will think I believe it is okay to walk in darkness and say you are a Christian. We must remove the leaven of false doctrine from the lump, so others are not infected with this heresy also. Christians are the children of light and Jesus said we would not walk in darkness. I will just pick three from the list. How common these sins are in the modern church:

1. Fornication
2. Greed [Greek: eager for gain]
3. Drunkenness

These are only three examples of walking in darkness. What if Christians withheld all fellowship from those who are walking in just those three sins?

**1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Jesus taught this principle in the parable of the Prodigal Son. [Luke 15:11-32] Notice as long as the son was living in sin, he had no fellowship with the Father ... even though he was deeply loved by the Father the whole time. We know that is true because when the prodigal truly repented, turned away from his sinful life and returned to his father's house, the father saw him a long way off and ran to him. What caused the father to see him a long way off? Because he loved the son and was hoping each day that the son would repent and come home. The son began fully confessing his sin before the father and was so contrite he was willing to just be a servant in his father's house, but the father not only forgave him, but restored him to the fulness of his sonship and inheritance ... as though he had never sinned. It is important to notice that after you have truly repented and turn again to the blood of Jesus as your salvation, when you are forgiven, cleansed from all unrighteousness, and restored to your rights of "sonship" ... your conscience is fully restored at that same moment. You are a son, a child of light, and your conscience will be constantly prompting you to walk as a child of light ... and the Holy Spirit will "also" bear witness to the fact you are a son of God, a child of light. When your awareness of sonship is restored, so is your conscience.

**1Jn 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

This was the claim of the Pharisees, who gave a show to the people that they actually kept the law of Moses. Jesus confronted their hypocrisy openly when He said to them:

**Joh 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?**

**Joh 8:23-24 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. (24) I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.**

Notice the word "he" is in italics. It is not in the original Greek. What Jesus actually said to them was ... *"for if you believe not that I AM ... you shall die in your sins."* Jesus laid down His divinity to be found in fashion as a man but make no mistake ... Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. They could not believe what they had just heard, so they asked him again,

**Joh 8:25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.**

Going back to the beginning of this discourse with them,

**Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

*"I am the light of the world."* If they do not believe that, and if they do not follow Him, they will never be born again, they will never have the power of the "light of life" within them ... they will never have the power to walk above sin ... and they will die as religious sinners by nature ... the same condition they were in when He spoke to them. They were claiming they kept the law. They were claiming they had no sin. They were claiming they did not need a Savior. John says in chapter 1:10 ... they are liars and the truth is not in them.

## **Chapter Two:**

**1Jn 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: (2) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.**

The purpose of the letter is that "we sin not." Jesus had said those that follow Him would not walk in darkness but would have the light of life. Jesus taught we would know the truth and the truth would make us free from sin. The Son has set us free from sin indeed. John is saying, **God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all. You are a child of light and in your new nature there is no darkness at all. Do not sin because you are a child of light. You are to walk in the light as he is in the light.**

Provision is made for stumbling, not habitual sinning. In Vine's dictionary of New Testament Words, we are told that in 1 John 2:1 the Greek word *harmartano* is used in the aorist tense meaning ... a single act of sin. If you commit "a" sin, you have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Jesus is a different sort of "lawyer" than we are used to. In earthly courts of law, the first plea by the lawyer is almost always, "*My client is innocent.*" But in the heavenly court our advocate, our lawyer, brings us before the Judge with our confession of being "*guilty*" ... but then Jesus, our lawyer, presents to the Judge His own blood that was shed as payment for our sin. This is what is meant by He is the "propitiation" for our sins. We are guilty, but the penalty for our guilt has already been **paid in full** by the blood of Jesus. [The radical grace teachers say this process is automatic, but John says, "if we confess our sins ..."].

It is important to note that later in John's first epistle, he uses a different tense in regard to the verb "sin." He uses the present tense of the verb indicating not the committal of a single act, but the continuous practice of sin. A good word to describe it would be "habitual" sin. It means a "lifestyle" of sin.

### **Preview of John chapter three:**

**1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him [habitually] sinneth not: whosoever [habitually] sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**

**1Jn 3:8 He that committeth [habitual] sin is of the devil; for the devil [habitually] sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. [Note: The devil did not commit just one act of sin and then repent; but he continued to sin, and still continues to sin to this very day. Those who likewise continue in habitual sin are like the devil ... not God. They are of the devil.]**

**1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit [habitual] sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot [habitually] sin, because he is born of God.**

The apostle John said in 1 John 2:1 that it is possible for a genuine Christian to sin ... to

commit "a" sin. But it is not possible for a person to habitually sin, to have a lifestyle of sin, and remain a Christian. Eventually, a lifestyle of sin will extinguish the life in the seed. Jesus taught this in the parable of the sower. In the four types of ground where the seed was sown, three out of the four eventually caused the little growing plant to perish. Only in the good ground did the life in the seed flourish ... and even then ... some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred fold.

In this context the following verse makes sense. It is talking about how the person lives habitually. His **lifestyle** is either one **of righteousness**, or a **lifestyle of sin**. **The former is a Christian. The latter is not.**

**1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not [habitual] righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.**

It is imperative that you understand what John is saying. In John chapter one and two he is saying Christians do not have to sin. There is provision made for the Christian who commits "a" sin. But in John chapter three he is saying that the person who lives in "habitual" sin, a lifestyle of sin ... **is not a Christian at all**. They are still a child of the devil. They need more than simple forgiveness. They need to be born again. Many in the church do not know Jesus ... because they do not keep His commandments. They do not love Jesus ... because they do not keep His commandments. They can be very "religious" and do all sorts of things in His name, but if they are "habitual" sinners by lifestyle, they are still a child of the devil.

**Mat 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

This is not a doctrine of "perfection." Only Jesus has walked in this world perfectly. That being said, the Bible gives specific lists of "deal breakers" that if you habitually do them, you will not inherit the kingdom of God. Paul gives one such list in:

**1Co 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. KJV**

**1Co 6:9-10** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, (10) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. NKJV

**1Co 6:9-10** Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived (misled): neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, (10) Nor cheats (swindlers and thieves), nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God. **AMPLIFIED**

*"I don't pray enough. I don't worship enough. I don't read my Bible enough."* All of that may be true, but that is not the kind of sinful lifestyle the Holy Spirit is talking about. Stay with what the Bible teaches. There are DEAL BREAKERS such as what is listed above. Don't play with fornication. Don't play with drunkenness. Don't play with any of the DEAL BREAKERS.

Don't condemn yourself for not being perfect either! God understands growth. God understands it takes time for fruit to mature on the limb of even the very best tree. Remember what Jesus taught about the WORD maturing in you,

**Mar 4:28** For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.