

Conditional Fellowship I Jn. 1:5-2:2

Thesis: To help us better understand the conditions of fellowship with Christ

Introduction:

There are six “if...then” statements in our text.

I. If we have fellowship with Christ, we must walk in the light (1:5-7).

A. There is no darkness in God (1:5).

1. Light and darkness have often been used to show the difference between good and evil.
2. John had used this analogy on numerous occasions as he detailed the life of Jesus.
 - a. **Jn. 1:4-9** - In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. {5} And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. {6} There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. {7} This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. {8} He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. {9} That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
 - b. **Jn. 3:19-21** - And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. {20} For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. {21} But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.
 - c. **Jn. 8:12** - Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
 - d. **Jn. 12:35-36** - Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. {36} While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”
 - e. **Jn. 12:46** - I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.
3. “God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.”
 - a. There is no sin with God.
 - b. He does not associate with darkness (sin).

B. If we “walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth” (1:6)

1. We cannot claim to be a child of God and continue to walk in darkness.
 - a. **I Jn. 2:9** - He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.
 - b. **I Jn. 4:20** - If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?
2. When we became children of God, we were delivered to the light of God.
 - a. **Col. 1:13** - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
 - b. **Eph. 5:8** - For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.
 - c. **I Pet. 2:9** - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
3. If we continue to walk in darkness and claim that we have fellowship with God, we are the ones who "lie and do not practice the truth."
 - a. Remember, with God there is no darkness (**1:5**).
 - b. We cannot continue to live in sin while claiming to be in fellowship with God.

C. To be a child of God, we must "walk in the light as He is in the light" (1:7**).**

1. The idea of walking in the light is that we are faithful to God.
 - a. We should do the things that God has commanded us.
 - b. Our actions are consistent with the will of God.
 - c. Instead of living in darkness, we live in the light.
2. It is only when "we walk in the light" that we can have true fellowship with God.
 - a. When we are in fellowship with God, we can have forgiveness through the blood of Jesus.
 - b. We also will have that common association with others who are living the same way and trying to achieve the same home in heaven.
3. Notice a brief review.
 - a. **I Jn. 1:5** - God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
 - b. **I Jn. 1:6** - If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
 - c. **I Jn. 1:7** - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

II. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1:8-10**).**

A. In this life, we will commit sin.

1. John makes three statements that deal with the fact that we will commit sin.
 - a. **I Jn. 1:8** - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 - 1) If we cannot admit that we sin, we are simply deceiving ourselves.
 - 2) In fact, if we cannot admit that we sin, there is no truth in us.
 - b. **I 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.
 - 1) God is faithful and promises that He will forgive us of our sins as we repent of them.
 - 2) As we will notice later in the lesson, this is done through Christ.
 - c. **I Jn. 1:10** - If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
 - 1) If we claim that we have not sinned, we make God out to be the liar.
 - 2) If we do this, His word does not abide in us.
2. The fact of the matter is that we have sinned; and there is no denying it.
3. Other passages in the Bible speak to the fact that we will commit sin.
 - a. **Rom. 3:23** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - b. **Gal. 3:22** - But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
4. If it were possible to live a perfect life, then Christ would not have had to die on the cross for us.

B. We must understand that there is a difference between committing a sin and living in sin.

1. Later in this book, John is going to say that the child of God does not sin.
 - a. **I Jn. 3:4-9** - Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. {5} And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. {6} Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. {7} Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. {8} He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. {9} Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
 - b. He does not mean that we will never commit sin.
 - c. But he does mean that we will not continue to live in sin.
2. We are to be slaves to Christ, not slaves to sin.

- a. **Rom. 6:11-18** - Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. {12} Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. {13} And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. {14} For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. {15} What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! {16} Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? {17} But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. {18} And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
- b. While we may sin from time to time, we cannot continue to live in sin.

III. If we commit sin, "we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (2:1-2).

A. We can be forgiven of our sins through Christ (2:1).

1. Although we should do our best not to commit sin, when we do, we can be forgiven.
2. Jesus is our Advocate.
 - a. **Heb. 9:24** - For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;
 - b. **Rom. 8:34** - Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
 - c. **I Tim. 2:5-6** - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, {6} who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

B. Jesus "is the propitiation for our sins" (2:2).

1. "Propitiation" literally means "atonement" (Strong's).
2. Christ has bought back our sins.
3. He knows that we are not going to live perfectly; therefore, He gives us an opportunity to be forgiven through His death.
 - a. **I Jn. 1:7** - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - b. **I Pet. 1:19** - We are redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Conclusion: