

True Fellowship with Christ

1 John 1:5-2:2

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Progressive Christianity Quote – “Being Queer is holy. Our love is holy too. Christians who say otherwise don’t know the bible, woo!” – Pastor Brandan Robertson

Historical Context – The book of First John was written by the Apostle John to a local church he knew (maybe Ephesus and to those in Asia Minor). First John was written to believers so that they could know the true nature of fellowship, know they have eternal life, and to address false teachers who had come into the church.

Message Statement - fellowship with God and all believers is obtained by believing the original message of Christ, walking in the light, and confessing sins

Homiletical Outline

I. God is Light – v. 5

A. The Message we Heard

1. John’s Epistle was written to address the false teachers who had snuck into the local assembly and began to lead believers astray.

They were teaching:

- a. **Gnostics** – Those who believe the spiritual outweighed the physical. In other words, we can sin because the physical really doesn't matter.
 - b. **Docetism** – The belief that Jesus' body was not real he only made it appear to be real. Thus, they doubt the incarnation and death of Christ.
 - c. There also arose a third view by a man named Cerinthus who contended that Jesus was a mere man who became the Christ after his baptism in which the Spirit came upon Him and left Him before his death on the cross.
2. John defends his apostleship by reminding his readers that he was with Jesus since his ministry began (vs. 1-4)
 3. The message they heard from Jesus himself to give to the church:

God is Light

- a. A statement about the very nature of God
- b. Light is immaterial, diffusive, pure, and glorious. It is the condition of life
- c. As immaterial it corresponds to God as spirit; as diffusive, to God as love; as the condition of life, to God as life; as pure and illuminating, to God as holiness and truth

- d. In the Old Testament, light is often the medium of God's visible revelations to **men. It was the first manifestation of God in creation**

4. "In Him there is no Darkness"

- a. Darkness here is the exact opposite of light
- b. No light in darkness
- c. No truth in darkness
- d. No glory in darkness
- e. No purity in darkness
- f. No holiness in darkness

II. 5 Hypotheticals/Conditions for being in True Fellowship – vs. 6-10

A. Hypothetical/Condition #1 – We say we have fellowship with Him but walk in darkness

1. **Fellowship** – close association involving mutual interests and sharing, communion, close relationship
2. **Walk** – to conduct one's life, comport oneself, behave, live as a habit of conduct
 - a. The habitual course of life; both outward and inward
3. The results: We lie and do not practice the truth
 - a. **Lie** - Falsehood
 - b. **Practice** - to produce something material, make, manufacture, produce

- 1) This is speaking of human activity
- 2) The literal translation here is “you do not do the truth”
- c. Jesus Christ is the truth (John 14:6) and he gives us His Spirit of Truth (John 14:17)
- d. This lie affects our lifestyle and how we live our lives out

B. Hypothetical/Condition #2 – We Walk in the light as He Himself is in the Light

1. **Our lifestyle is a direct reflection of who Christ is**
2. The Results: We have fellowship, and we’re cleansed
 - a. I have fellowship with other believers, the apostles, Christ, and the Father
 - b. Cleanses - to purify through ritual cleansing, make clean, declare clean
 - 1) This is a moral cleanse
 - 2) This cleansing is not only forgiveness of sin but a removal of sin
 - 3) The tense of the verb “cleanse” makes this both a present and continuous cleanse

C. Hypothetical/Condition #3 – If we say we have no sin

1. Sin (ἁμαρτίαν) is not to be understood of original sin, or of sin before conversion, but generally. “It is obvious that this ἔχειν

ἁμαρτίαν (to have sin), is infinitely diversified, according to the successive measure of the purification and development of the new man. Even the apostle John does not exclude himself from the universal if we say”.

2. **Commentary** - If Christians understand the truth that God’s Word teaches about the depravity of the human heart, they know that just because they are not *conscious* of failure does not mean that they are free from it. If the truth is “in” them as a controlling, motivating influence, this kind of self-deception will not take place.
3. The Results – We’re deceiving ourselves
 - a. **deceiving** - to cause to go astray from a specific way; to mislead
 - 1) We are the object of our own deception and the very reason in which we are not in fellowship with God.
 - 2) Lying here affects us internally – we’re leading ourselves astray.

D. Hypothetical/Condition #4 – If we confess our sins

1. When we acknowledge we have sin in our lives, we must confess what has been revealed by God who is light
2. **Confession** - to concede that something is factual or true, grant, admit

- a. to say the same thing as another, and, therefore, to admit the truth of an accusation

3. The results: God forgives and Cleanses us

- a. **Faithful** - pertaining to being worthy of belief or trust, trustworthy, faithful, dependable, inspiring trust/faith
 - 1) of God as the One in whom we can have full confidence
 - 2) True to His own nature and promises, keeping faith with Himself and with man
- b. **Righteous**- pertaining to being in accordance with high standards of rectitude, upright, just, fair
 - 1) of transcendent beings. Because of their privileged status as authority figures, the idea of fairness or equity is associated w. such entities
 - 2) Because he is God, he is the standard of what righteous is.
- c. **Forgive** - to release from legal or moral obligation or consequence, cancel, remit, pardon
 - 1) Because he is faithful and just, he will forgive us and cleanse us.

E. Hypothetical/Condition #5 – If we say we have not sinned

1. We say that we have not sinned – When God reveals sin to us, we must not say that we didn't sin.

2. The Results: We make God a Liar

- a. The lying here directly affects our relationship with God
- b. If your relationship with God is wrong (vs.10), you're misleading yourself (vs.8), and your lifestyle is in darkness (vs. 6), then are you really saved?

III. Christ our Advocate – 2:1-2

A. The apostle does not want us to sin

- 1. To willfully sin is to take advantage of grace (Rom 6:1-2)
- 2. Those who do this practice licentiousness (Jude 4)

B. If we do, Christ is our Advocate

- 1. **Advocate** - one who appears in another's behalf, mediator, intercessor, helper
 - a. With the Father – they have a close, intimate relationship
- 2. He is called the righteous because his life is the standard of righteousness

C. Christ is our Propitiations

1. **Propitiation** - appeasement necessitated by sin, expiation
 - a. the means of appeasing
 - b. It is to provide a means to for fellowship for a person who could not on their own make it happen (Lk. 18:13)

D. He is the propitiation for the whole world sins (Heb.7:25; Acts 4:12)

Watch this video for reference:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/OiKC3pdbrxs>

