

Now read Psalm 51. What attitude did David take in dealing with his sin? What phrases and words indicate David was *walking in the light*?

Think about this statement: “*It’s not the fact of my sin, but my attitude towards it, that affects my fellowship with God.*” Do you agree or disagree?

Read I John 2:1-2.

Where has our sin been dealt with once and for all?

If Christ has already paid the price for my sin and is waiting to forgive me, then on whom does the burden of responsibility fall for effective fellowship?

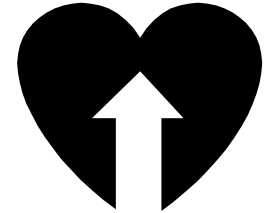
Truly, it’s our attitude about our sin, not necessarily the fact of it, that makes the greatest difference in our relationship with God.

Essentially. . . .

. . . my fellowship time with God is most effective when I’m walking in the light, which means I’m being open and honest with God about my sin. How specific are you when talking with God about the sin He already knows about? How willing are you to deal with attitudes and actions God exposes in your life?

Honest To God!

John leaves no room for doubt – fellowshiping with Jesus is the main factor that makes life work. But a question remains – what does one do to make the most of their fellowship time? What does the fellowship factor look like in street clothes? John addresses this issue in the remaining verses of chapter 1.



Read I John 1:5-10.

Study Questions:

1:5 describes God in what way? Why do you think John felt it important to establish this during his discussion on fellowship?

To some extent, fellowship contains the idea of a *common bond*. According to 1:5-7 . . .

. . . what is the common bond between a believer and God during fellowship?

. . . to what do *darkness* and *light* refer?

. . . what is the result of walking in darkness? Walking in the light?

. . . what common traits do you see between the result of *walking in the light* in verse 7 and the point John makes earlier in 1:3?

Read 1:8-10. According to these verses. . .

. . . what does Christ's blood do for us? Scan through Psalm 51. What other word does David use to describe this same term?

. . . what two character traits are ascribed to Christ? Why are these important to forgiveness?

. . . what does forgiveness hinge upon? Look up *confession* and write out the biblical definition. Does this definition characterize your confession, or do you lean more towards a "drive through" version of 'fessing up – the "quick-cuz-I-gotta-go" routine? Are you more quick to confess because you got caught and think you're in trouble than when you simply are convicted inwardly?

...when we deny God's exposing light, what is *not* in us? What does this refer to? What word in 1:8 would be referring to the same thing?

There are five "*ifs*" in 1:5-10. Summarize each of them, then place either a negative (-) or a positive (+) sign by each one indicting its given slant and tone. For instance, verse 6 says that *if* we say we have fellowship when we really don't, we are lying. That's definitely a negative (-).

Analyze your negatives and positives. Now try and summarize them with key words, such as *deceit* for the negatives and *honesty* for the positives. Make a list of various key words you could use to show the difference in these two lifestyles.

Based on 1:5-10, what would you say is a key ingredient in a productive fellowship time with God? (Hint: Check out words like *lie*, *deceiving*, *confess*, and *liar* for a clue.)

Hopefully, you've discovered that **honesty** is a key ingredient for genuine fellowship with God. In fact, that is exactly what *walking in the light* means: *to be open and honest with God about my sin*. Unfortunately, deceit tragically disarms our ability to fellowship. Which trait characterizes your time with God – honesty or deceit? Are you walking in the light?

Read Genesis 3:1-24. Which approach did Adam and Eve take in dealing with their sin? (Write out the phrases you find in this passage to indicate this.)