

I AM FORGIVEN

God is faithful and just to forgive us from all sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness through our advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ John the Apostle is credited with writing the epistle of 1 John. His reason for writing the letter, at least in part, was due to a situation in the church.
- ❖ A false teaching was spreading throughout the church—that it was possible to have fellowship with God and still continue sinning.
- ❖ John challenges this idea, writing, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not practice the truth” (1 John 1:6).
- ❖ To “walk in the darkness” means to sin habitually, or continually, until it becomes a part of one’s nature. John concludes that those whose lives are characterized by sin cannot realistically claim to have fellowship with God.
- ❖ If we understand the depravity of the human heart, we are hard pressed to claim that we are without sin. Nevertheless, those who do not walk in the darkness, by exclusion, walk in the light.
- ❖ 1 John 1:7 says, “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.”
- ❖ The word “cleanses” in this context is in the present tense. This shows us that John does not equate “walking in the light” with perfection. Rather, the result of walking in the light is that the blood of Jesus Christ—His sacrificial death—cleanses us *continually*.
- ❖ John claims that i) we all sin, and ii) God will cleanse us if we confess our sins. So...is John endorsing sin?
- ❖ Lest he be understood as giving license to sin, John immediately clarifies his words: “My little children, these things I write to you, *so that you may not sin*” (2:1).
- ❖ This appeal from John assures us that, whatever may seem to be the implications of the earlier statements, the precise concern is this: **THAT WE MIGHT NOT SIN**.
- ❖ Sin may enter our hearts and fight for dominion, but it cannot sit upon the throne. For the church, when sin occurs it must be confessed and then abandoned.
- ❖ We all fail God. John knew that the church is not perfect. Christians are, without exception, still people who sin. And Satan our accuser, who accuses us before God night and day (Revelations 12:10), will be quick to remind us of our sins.
- ❖ We are all guilty of sin. And if God should ignore our sin, should turn His face away from it, it would be contrary to His nature and would make His Word a lie.
- ❖ But John tells us of an advocate. “And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (2:1).
- ❖ His very name, attributes, and essence prove Him to be the most suitable Advocate for sinners.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

1 John 1:6-9, 2:1-2

- ❖ Jesus knows what it means to be tempted, though He did not sin. He understands the burden of sin like no other (Hebrews 4:15).
- ❖ Those who walk in the light fall into sin, yet, they do not abide in their sin. Those who walk in the light fall on their knees and confess their sins to God. Then Jesus—the advocate—appears alongside the sinner and speaks on their behalf.
- ❖ But say, perhaps, Condemnation shows up at the doors of our consciences after we have been forgiven. After Jesus’ *blood* has been paid as atonement for you!?
- ❖ Remind Condemnation of His words on the cross: “*It is finished*” (John 19:30).
- ❖ Hebrews 4:16 says we boldly approach the throne of grace. We don’t depend on our own merits or righteousness; rather, we come because a sufficient sacrifice was offered for our sins and the blood of Jesus still cleanses us from all unrighteousness.
- ❖ Some of us sin and then quiet our consciences, remaining in the darkness. Or, one sin may lead to another and we eventually find ourselves content to be out of fellowship with God.
- ❖ But know this: the Spirit of God is calling those who would invite Him in.
- ❖ If my life is filled with darkness, I must peel away the clouds of sin in order to return to the light.
- ❖ And those who walk in light must not give way to sin.
- ❖ However, if anyone sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us from all our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteous (1 John 1:9).
- ❖ We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. We are forgiven.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In our Christian walk, is it possible to walk in darkness and still serve God? Discuss.
2. What can we do to ensure we “walk in the light as He is in the light” (1 John 1:7)? Provide scriptural references.
3. Romans 3:23 states that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” But we have an Advocate. Go to the Advocate, confess any sins, and know He is faithful and just to forgive.

Prayer Time

“Search me, O God, and know my heart today,
 Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray;
 See if there be some wicked way in me;
 Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free.”

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Start-up: Do you or do you not have a forgiving nature? What makes it easy/hard for you to forgive other people or even yourself?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline