

Light

I John 1:3-2:2

³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 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, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Fellowship

In 1 John 1:3 John speaks of fellowship with each other and fellowship with God. The Greek word used is *koinonia*. Below is the definition from the Strong's Concordance:

2842. κοινωνία koinonia koy-nohn-ee'-ah

from 2844; partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction:--(to) communicate(-ation), communion, (contri-) distribution, fellowship.

The same word is used in these verses. Read Acts 2:42; Philippians 1:3-6; Philippians 2:1-4; and Philippians 3:10-11. Write a definition of fellowship based on the definition of *koinonia* and these verses.

What requisites does John give us in 1 John 1:3-7 for having fellowship with God and with each other?

What can keep us from having deep and real fellowship with one another? Why are surface relationships more common?

What are some ways you can increase the depth of your fellowship with other believers? With God?

light

[līt]

noun

1. the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible:
2. an expression in someone's eyes indicating a particular emotion or mood:
"a shrewd light entered his eyes"
3. understanding of a problem or mystery; enlightenment:

5457. φῶς phos foce

from an obsolete phao (to shine or make manifest, especially by rays; compare 5316, 5346); luminousness (in the widest application, natural or artificial, abstract or concrete, literal or figurative):--fire, light. (Strong's Concordance)

John says “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. How does this attribute of God influence your relationship with Him? How does it make you feel? Read the verses below as part of your discussion.

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, Lord. Psalm 89:15

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path. Psalm 119:105

The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:130

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. John 3:16-21

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. I Peter 2:9

1 John 1:7 talks about walking in the light. How do we do that?

Read 1 John 1:8 Why do you think someone would say they have no sin?

1 John 1:9 says God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins when we confess them to Him. Why is His forgiveness both faithful and just?

Why must we confess? Why do you think we hold back from confessing our sins? How does unconfessed sin affect our fellowship with God and with each other? (Num 5:5-7; 2 Ch 7:14; Pr. 28:13; Is 55:6-7; Mt 6:9-13; Mk 11:25; Rom 10:9-10; Heb 4:14-16)

Read 1 John 2:1-2; Hebrews 7:25; 10:14 and the definitions below. How does Jesus being both our advocate and atoning sacrifice (propitiation) affect your life?

ad·vo·cate

NOUN['advəkət]

1. a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy:

"he was an untiring advocate of economic reform" · "she has been a tireless advocate for women's organizations and causes"

VERB['advə,kāt]

1. publicly recommend or support:

"they advocated an ethical foreign policy" · "he advocated for the right to vote for decades"

3875. παράκλητος parakletos par-ak'-lay-tos

an intercessor, consoler:--advocate, comforter. (Strongs Concordance)

pro·pi·ti·a·tion

[prə,piSHē'āSHən]

NOUN

1. the action of propitiating or appeasing a god, spirit, or person:

"he lifted his hands in propitiation"

- atonement, especially that of Jesus Christ.

a·tone·ment

[ə'tōnm(ə)nt]

NOUN

1. reparation for a wrong or injury:

"she wanted to make atonement for her husband's behavior"

- (in religious contexts) reparation or expiation for sin:

"an annual ceremony of confession and atonement for sin"

- CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

(THE ATONEMENT)

the reconciliation of God and humankind through Jesus Christ.

2434. ἱλασμός hilasmos hil-as-mos'

atonement, i.e. (concretely) an expiator:--propitiation. (Strong's Concorance)

Homework:

1. Continue your Gratefulness Journal. Write down things God is doing in your life and what you are learning about Him and from Him.
2. Read the entire book of 1 John.
3. Spend time talking with Jesus about how your actions could be more in line with your beliefs?
4. Read 1 John 1 and Colossians 4:6. In what ways is God prompting you to share your faith with those around you?
5. Memorize 1 John 1:9

Memory challenge: Memorize 1 John 1:5-9