

1 John 1:5-10
“The Heart of the Matter”

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Let's turn to the book of 1st John...
 - And follow along as I read (1 John 1:5-10).

NOTE TAKERS...

- We continue in this new series...
 - In a message I've titled:

“The Heart of the Matter”

THIS WEEK... WE OFFICIALLY ENTERED THE “FALL SEASON”

- And it seems so natural that we get closer to one another.
 - The days are getting shorter, the nights cooler...
 - Coffee, sweatshirts, & fires make a cozy time of year!

JUST RECENTLY... ON SUNDAY NIGHTS...

- Jodi & I started watching...
 - A Hallmark Movie Series called...
 - Chesapeake Bay.

THE THEME OF THIS SERIES...

- Is boiled down to keeping a (growing family) together...
 - Thru the seasons of life!
 - And at **“The Heart of the Matter”**
 - An aging father is desiring to spend time...
 - With his kids & grandkids – (fellowship)

WELL...

- **“The Heart of the Matter”** is what we're going to cover today!
 - By answering the question...
 - How do we stay in fellowship with God!?!

YOU SEE THERE'S ONLY TWO OPTIONS...

- Option-A:
 - Accept the conditions of fellowship God has given!
 - ~ OR ~
 - Option-B: Put on the fig leaf and hid!

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REMEMBER... LAST WEEK...

- In the background study we learned...
 - That 1st John was written to...
 - Deepen the spiritual life of the church...
 - And to guard against the watering down of Biblical truths!

GANG...

- Can we be honest here tonight???
 - Will you join with me...
 - To hear as the Lord ministers to us?

WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL MATTERS...

- Fear repels men...
 - It doesn't draw them in.

SO OFTEN...

- It's the Halloween Mask of FEAR pulling us away from God!
 - The enemy painting God to be something He's not.
- The Father has extended His arms to us in Jesus.

~STUDY~

POINT #1

- Conditions of Fellowship (vv.5-7)
 - Walking in the light = Life style.
 - & Being honest!

(v.5)

The message is... “*From Him* (Jesus)... *to you...*” (the church)...

- Which is... *God is light* &
 - There's *no darkness* in Him.

SO WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS...

- “*God is light?*”
 - There's two concepts we hold to:

#a) Light represents the truth of God as seen in the word of God.

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- Ps. 43:3 = (into God’s presence!)
- Ps. 119:105 = (where I am / where to go)
- Ps. 119:130 = (provides understanding as to why)

#b) Scripture links light with our conduct & behavior (actions).

- Eph. 5:8-11
- Isa 5:20-23
- Rom 13:11-14

SO JOHN IS SAYING...

- When there’s a genuine response to the “light” (truth of God)...
- It literally affects how the person lives!

GANG THIS IS A CALL...

- To look in the mirror and be honest...
- Before others / before self / & before God.
 - What do you see in your life?!?

THIS WEEK I WAS CONVICTED...

- Because **I watered down my on steps of faith.**
- (James 5:14-15) *“Anoint with oil & the prayer of faith”*

<<< *MY STORY >>>

WHAT’S THE SIMPLE ACT YOUR SINNING IN?

- Have you taken your talent (gifting) & buried it (Matt. 25:25-26).
 - Are you sinning against the Lord because you’ve...
 - Stopped praying... (1 Sam. 12:23).
 - Maybe it more drastic & you’re literally stealing from God...
 - Because you don’t believe in tithing (Mal. 3:8).
 - Maybe your denying the Lord because you’re in a...
 - Relationship & living conditions you shouldn’t be in.

YOU PICK THE TOPIC...

- It’s not for me to examine your life.
- But gang John is giving us practical truths here!

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AND HERE’S WHY...

(v.6)

John confronts false professions!

- “Hey I’m a Christian”...
 - BUT... I’m living by habit in opposition...
 - To what the Bible says!

(v.6) “*we lie*” = Literally: Speak deliberate falsehoods.

WE TRY TO MAKE OUR LIFE BETTER...

- Than what it really is!
 - We pick up the fig leaves to hide it.
 - Meanwhile God is calling out saying come to Me!
 - Stand & walk in the light.
 - (Isa. 1:18-20).

“The Heart of the Matter”.

- Is... God wants fellowship with you personally!
 - He doesn’t want you to be afraid of Him.
- But He’s called you to be honest...
 - And to live a life that is consistent...
 - With His word.

POINT #2

- *Restoration When We Blow It (vv.8-10)*

(v.8)

Define sin = (Rom 3:23)

SO... **BEING HONEST!**

- This carries down from the recognition of sin...
 - Right into repentance from sin!

FOR THE CHRISTAIN...

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- Sin interrupts fellowship with God...
 - But cannot change the relationship.
- Understand it this way...
 - When your kids blow it... they blow it...
 - But they're still your kids!

(vv.9-10)

WE HAVE THE OPTION OF:

- a) Fellowship...
- b) Or a hard heart.
 - In fellowship we learn truth & walking it out.
 - With a hard heart we...
 - Advances from:
 - (v.6) Lying to others...
 - (v.8) Lying to self...
 - And finally (v.10) Lying to God!

NOW... THE GREEK WORD FOR...

- Sin = (*Ham-mar-te-A*)
 - Meaning to miss or wander from the path of right.

GOD KNOWS YOU'RE A SINNER...

- So the idea is NOT to become sinless...
 - But to change directions when the light of the word...
 - Shines into your life...
 - Revealing your off course!

AND HERE'S THE STEPS WE TAKE...

- (v.9) Confession = Agree with God...
 - Which takes us to forgiveness...
 - Stepping away from the wrong...
 - And God unties the knot.
 - And finally cleansing = To clean, to free from guilt, purify!

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- (Hot-wheels story / 6-yrs / & hospital)

~ AND WE CLOSE TONIGHT ~

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP...

- With Jesus Christ please come forward to visit with a pastor.
 - If you have questions about Jesus or the Bible...
 - Come forward and let's check it out together.