

## Fellowship With God Part 2

### *The Basic Characteristics of Christianity Study in 1 John*

Read 1 John 1:5-10

We are talking about the Basic characteristics of a Christian or a follower of Jesus Christ. The first and foundational characteristic is Fellowship with God. In part one of this lesson we learned the meaning of fellowship which is to be a partner with God. We also learned that the main partner is God not us. We have been given the privilege to be a partner and co-laborer with God but in now way do we deserve it or get to control it. He is everything in this partnership.

In part two of Fellowship with God we will learn about the message from God about this partnership and the method for walking in partnership or fellowship with God.

#### **1. The Message from Our Partner - 1 John 1:5**

After confirming that Jesus was a real person, that Jesus is God in human form, that we can have fellowship or be in partnership with God through Jesus, and that it will bring joy to our lives, John continues his letter to believers by letting us know that God has a message for us as his partners. This message will be the key to our partnership. It will be the foundational truth that our partnership will be founded on. The message is simply this: "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."

So what does that mean? Let's take a look at light and darkness in the Bible to see if we can gain a better understanding of what John is talking about.

Light and Darkness mean:

- Intellectually - Light refers to Biblical truth while darkness refers to error or falsehood.
  - a. Psalm 119:105 - "Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"
  - b. Proverbs 6:23 - "For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,"
  - c. John 1:4-5 - "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
  - d. John 8:12 - "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- Morally - Light refers to holiness or purity while darkness refers to sin or wrongdoing.
  - e. Romans 13:12-14 - "The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."
  - f. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-7 - "But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night."

- So to say that God is light and in him is no darkness at all would mean: God is totally true in everything he says and he is right and pure and holy in everything he does. There is not one spec of error, immorality or wrongdoing in him at all.

This is the message. Everything else John is about to say is in reference to this message. If we want to have fellowship with God, i.e. Be in partnership with God, we must realize he is totally light with no darkness and thus that is what we must be to enjoy partnership with him.

## **2. The Method of our Partnership - 1 John 1:6-10**

You might ask, how can flawed human beings ever be in fellowship or partnership with a perfectly holy God? Glad you asked because John is going to answer that question in the balance of chapter one.

John's application of this truth is as follows:

- The Condition of our partnership - live in the light - 1:6-7
  - a. If we say we are in partnership while we are living in sin we are lying
  - b. If we live according to God's Word & Practice God's Word we have partnership
- The Conflict in our partnership - our sin is constantly a problem
- The Compassion of our Partner - Jesus blood cleanses us from our sin
- The Confession of our sin
  - c. The Presence of our sin - 1:8 - sin nature
  - d. The Practice of sin - 1:10
  - e. The Power of the Blood of Jesus - 1:9
  - f. The Personal admission - 1:9 Confess = to agree, say the same as

The message is simple, as born again believers we are in partnership and fellowship with God practically in our daily lives when we are living by the truth of God's Word and practicing what is good & right and moral. When we live and practice those things that are contrary to God's Word or commit sin, that is not what a partner of God does and therefore the joy that comes from fellowship with God is not there. (David in Psalm 51:12)

Walking in the light or walking in darkness, it is a simple question and can be easily answered. If we are walking in darkness, the good news is the Blood of Jesus will cleanse us from sin and we can walk, once again in the light and experience the love, joy and peace that comes from knowing I am living in step with God and his word.