

Love One Another (Part 2):

Big Lies & Bright Light

1John 1:5-10

LOGO SLIDE 1

Series Recap:

1) Loving one another – Last week we started this series in 1 John and we've titled it, "Love One Another." We see this theme all throughout this letter; that we are to love one another in specific ways that bring us into fellowship with one another. The whole idea here is this... if we love Jesus, we will love one another. If we love one another with Jesus at the center of our love, well then we have fellowship... then we have church.

2) Fellowship > Friendship - Fellowship is a big word for us in this letter. Last week we began in 1 John by exploring the word fellowship and the definition we came up with is this... "Fellowship is a supernatural friendship with Christ at the Center." Fellowship is better than friendship because friendship often denotes a relationship based on a shared sports team or hobby, etc... But fellowship denotes a relationship based on a shared salvation in Jesus Christ. In friendship you are still at a distance, but with fellowship you are family. It is possible to be an unhealthy church with plenty of friendships, but it's impossible to be a healthy church without fellowship

3) John's fellowship – The example we looked at last week of true fellowship was John. John is the author of this letter, and so he had better be pretty good at what he is preaching. Fortunately for us, he is. John gets fellowship. He was in love with Jesus and that made him be a good spiritual father to many in the faith. He was able to unify people around the cross, because he had lived a life devoted to Jesus Christ.

4) Fellowship in the Church = Complete Joy – The last thing we saw last week was this point - "Fellowship in the church will complete your joy." I want you to keep that thought in your mind throughout this study. Everything we are learning through out this series will teach us how to love one another within the fellowship of the church... and it will ultimately help us to have more joy.

TITLE SLIDE 2

I. Sermon Intro: today we are going to continue with this theme of fellowship and a completed joy. Last week we saw that loving Jesus the

way that John did will lead us to fellowship. Today we are going to see how walking in the light of Christ will lead us to fellowship.

1) Darkness and Caves – Have you ever been in complete darkness? Sure at night you cut off all the lights and close your eyes and sleep in darkness, but have you ever been in a situation, where you are wide awake, not trying to sleep, and there is total darkness? Has anyone ever been in a cave or a cavern? I remember a youth trip I took some students on a couple of years ago. We went white water rafting one day, repelling another day, and caving another day. Long story short, I now have a huge fear of caves. After surviving a panic attack in "fat man's demise" we got to a resting place where the leader had us all turn off our lights. It was pitch black. You couldn't see your hand 1 inch in front of you face... total darkness.

2) Darkness = sin – In the passage we are looking at today, darkness represents the absence of truth, it represents sinfulness. This means that light represents truth and sinlessness. Jesus is truth, he is light, and he calls us to walk in that light with him. If we are in darkness we are not in truth, we are in deception and that makes fellowship tricky, if not impossible.

3) Fellowship is hard in darkness – Even though, In that cave, I was with a lot of students and other people, when you are in pitch black darkness, you don't feel like you are a part of the group. You can't see to walk, you can't see who you are trying to communicate with... In the darkness, fellowship is very hard.

SLIDE 3

Well today we are going to see that. When we walk in darkness we are outside of the fellowship; with Jesus and with the church. But...

SLIDE 4

When we walk in the light, fellowship isn't only possible, its probable.

II. Body: so with that in mind, lets take a closer look at 1John 1:5-10 and see the difference between walking in the light and walking in the darkness and how that affects our fellowship with one another. We will see this today through the three LIES we tell in the dark, and three TRUTHS that are expressed in the light.

PASSAGE SLIDES 5-10

1John 1:5-10

SLIDE 11

LIE 1: I CAN LIVE IN SIN AND BE SAVED (vs. 6)

LOGO SLIDE 12

When we see the word walk here it means to be in, to live in, to practice. This means that if you are walking in darkness, that you are living in darkness, that you are living in your sin. This verse tells us that there are people who believe that they can live a lifestyle in complete rebellion and disobedience to Jesus and still be considered a Christian. And the Bible says... that is a lie! You can't be a Christian and still live a lifestyle of complete disregard for godliness and righteousness.

Perhaps that's where you are today. Perhaps you are walking in darkness, deceiving yourself into thinking everything is okay when it's not. Thinking that your sinful lifestyle is not a problem, that Jesus doesn't care that much about your sin. You're wrong

When I was interviewing for this position here at TAC I was in the process with a couple of other churches as well. One was for a Co-Pastor position. I went up there and interviewed and they wanted me really bad and there were some things about the church that I liked, but I couldn't get past this one thing. The pastor told me that 5 years ago it came out that he had been committing adultery with a woman for a period of 20 years. He had two grown children with this woman. And since he had ended the affair 10 years ago and the church had forgiven him that everything was okay. Yes there is forgiveness in Jesus. But here's the thing... had he not been caught in this lie, it wouldn't have ever been exposed into the light. He would have kept this sin a secret forever. And I couldn't do ministry with a man like that.

Maybe that's you today. Maybe you think you can keep your sin a secret from Jesus. Maybe you think he can't see your pornography addiction, your alcohol abuse, your drug use, the way you abuse your family, your gossip, your anger, whatever it is. I assure you he can! You may be in the darkness... but Jesus can still see you and you are not safe. Listen, you cannot live in a

sinful lifestyle and be a Christian. If you have been set free, you are free indeed. You are not a sinner, you are set free from sin's grip on your life... If you are still a sinner, you are not free! Simple as that! Stop lying!

SLIDE 13

If you are in fellowship with Jesus, Sin has lost its grip on your life

SLIDE 14

LIE 2: I AM SINLESS BECAUSE I AM SAVED (vs. 8)

LOGO SLIDE 15

This is the other side of that coin. If anyone is a Christian, they understand that sin is still going to be a part of their lives. It won't be a lifestyle, but it will still be a part of their lives. We never stop sinning. Now, I don't know a lot of Christians who claim to be beyond sin. We all will admit that sin is a struggle. But what is more common is denying the sins that we struggle with. It is socially acceptable to admit that we struggle with anger or self-righteousness. But it's a whole other thing to admit that we may struggle with lust, lying, or greed. Certain struggles are more godly than others right? No! All sin is a struggle and we have to admit that we struggle with all sin.

You are not above sin, and when you start to think that you are, that is exactly when Satan will come at you full force with that temptation. Have you ever thought, wow, it's been a really long time since I struggled with that sin, just to find out that that is the temptation that you face next! I have. I remember thinking that I was beyond my struggle with sinful anger. I had come a long way. It was the next week that I let my anger get the best of me and it almost ruined a relationship I had with someone. That's how it works. We have to rely on Christ all the time to keep us sinless, because if we start relying on ourselves Satan will find a crack to expose.

SLIDE 16

with dependence on Christ, keep your guard up against sin at all times

SLIDE 17

LIE 3: I'VE NEVER SINNED AND DON'T NEED TO BE SAVED (vs. 10)

LOGO SLIDE 18

This is the biggest granddaddy lie of them all. This is the lie that completely exposes your rebellion to God. This is basically a declaration that you don't need Jesus. This is what it means to be outside of Christ. You have looked at the Bible and said... thats a lie. You've looked at Jesus and said thats a lie... and you've looked at yourself and said... I'm not a bad person. I'm good enough and I don't need a savior.

The Bible calls this blasphemy... the denial of Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life. In the end, it is this lie, that ultimately leads everyone to hell. I hope this isn't anyone in the room today. I pray you wouldn't be so bold as to say, I don't need Jesus, I'm good on my own. If it is you, today is the day of salvation.

SLIDE 19

TRUTH 1: GOD IS COMPLETELY SINLESS AND GOOD (vs. 5)

LOGO SLIDE 20

So how do we combat against these lies? How do we bring this darkness in into the light, expose it, and deal with it? Well first we recognize the truth of God's word. And at the center of that word is this... God is completely sinless and good. The word for this is Holy. God is so incomprehensibly good and perfect that we must just take him at his word. We must see him as the embodiment of truth and follow his lead. God is purely light and in him there is no darkness.

Yes the world wants to say that a good God wouldn't allow such evil on this earth. Thats a cop out. A Good God is the one who saves us from the evil of this earth... by drawing us into his light!

SLIDE 21

TRUTH 2: THOSE IN FELLOWSHIP PRACTICE PURITY

(vs. 7)

LOGO SLIDE 22

In verse 7 we see that we are called to walk in the light as he is in the light. Don't be confused, you don't earn salvation by walking in the light. You walk in the light because you have salvation. The point here is this... those who are saved walk in the light. This counters the first lie, that you can live in darkness and be a christian. No, If you are saved you walk in light.

Secondly, here we see that if we are saved, walking in the light, then we have fellowship, not just with Jesus, but with one another! This means that the church is made up of people who are walking in the light! They are pure, sinless, godly, faithful, people. They aren't like the world, they are different. They have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus and have the Holy Spirit guiding their lives.

This is the exact opposite of being in the dark cave. When we are in fellowship with one another it's like the lights are completely on. We aren't hiding sins from one another, we aren't talking about each other behind their backs, we aren't divided against one another, we are walking in the light together. We have a light on our heads, guiding us through the cave and that light is the holy Spirit.

SLIDE 23

the light of the Holy Spirit guides us through the darkness of this world so that we can have fellowship with one another

SLIDE 24

TRUTH 3: CONFESSION OF SIN KEEPS US CLEAN (vs. 9)

LOGO SLIDE 25

So what is it that keeps us in the light, what is it that keeps us pure? Yes the Holy Spirit has a lot to do with it, but it is also our integrity and transparency. You see what the scripture says here in verse 9 is huge. It's one of the best ways to make sure that any church stays in the light and in fellowship with one another, and unfortunately it is one of the things that the church in our day has forgotten how to practice. CONFESSION.

We are scared to confess our sins. We are scared to confess them to Jesus. We think, as long as I don't say it to Jesus, then maybe it's not real, maybe he doesn't know. This is our answer to the second lie. Instead of holding onto the lie that you don't sin, confess your sin.

So maybe we can confess our sins to Jesus, but could never confess them to each other. That would make us look weak and unrighteous. Our self-righteousness would be exposed as a lie and we may even lose face in our church standing. This is ridiculous. The Bible says we can't grow in maturity if we aren't able to confess our sins both to Jesus and to each other.

James 5:16 says this - "confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

If we truly want to be pure, to be healed, to be in the light, then we must confess our sins to Jesus and to one another. That is what it means to be in the light. To be exposed. To be hiding nothing.

I don't know how we get to that place as a church, but I know this, we will not know what true fellowship looks like until we do. In order to love one another, we have to be able to look past our mistakes and confess our sins, and accept one another in our repentance. Then we will know what its like to bear one another's burdens and be a family.

SLIDE 26

confession, one to another, is the most visible expression of walking in the light

III. Conclusion – So we've seen three lies that we tell in the darkness of our souls. Where there is the absence of the light of Christ we think that we can either live in our sinfulness and still be saved, we believe we are sinless because we are saved, or we simply don't believe we need salvation from sin. All of these are dangerous and will most likely lead to our destruction.

The only way that we can know the truth is to walk in the light. There we find that if we struggle with sin, the light of the Holy Spirit can help us be clean. There we find that if we struggle with sin we can confess our sins

to Jesus and one to another and expose our darkness into the light and experience true fellowship with one another. For a church, fighting for fellowship, there is no room for darkness, there is no room for these lies, there is no room for sinfulness.

We must unite around our love for Jesus, righteousness, and each other.