

Fellowship, Confession, Forgiveness

1 John 1:1-10

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But 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 cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Sermon Outline:

- I. God want us to **fellowship** with Him
 - a. v. 3 (that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.)
- II. In order to have fellowship with God we need to **confess** our sins.
 - a. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- III. When we confess our sins to God, He **forgives** us.
 - a. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Application:

1. Know that Jesus died for us to appease the justice of God.
2. Confess our sins to God and people regularly
3. Forgive those who have sinned against us.
 - a. James 5:16 Therefore, 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.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it difficult to confess our sins to others?

2. What is involved in forgiveness?

3. How does the gospel make you more gracious and humble?

“The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So everybody must conceal his sin from himself and from the fellowship. We dare not be sinners. Many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous. So we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy. The fact is that we *are* sinners! In confession the break-through to community takes place. Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation. Sin wants to remain unknown. It shuns the light. In the darkness of the unexpressed it poisons the whole being of a person.”

Life Together Dietrich Bonhoeffer