

**Know You're Saved!**  
**1 John 1:5-10**

Introduction

The apostle John was living in Ephesus when he wrote 1 John.

Ephesus lay within the intellectual center of Asia Minor.

Just as Paul had predicted in Acts 20:28-31, false teachers had arisen from within the church's own ranks.

The philosophical trends of the day had saturated the church and infected the church with false doctrine.

These false teachers had infiltrated the church teaching new ideas which eventually became a heresy that threatened the early church for 100 years.

In this case,  
they were distorting  
the teaching about  
    the humanity of Jesus  
    & the doctrine of the atonement.

So in order to help the church,  
John writes this letter  
as a “recall to the fundamentals of the faith”  
or “back to basics Christianity.”

He expresses  
the absolute character  
of Christianity  
in basic terms—  
terms that are **clear** and **unmistakable**.

He labels those  
who are departing from the truth as  
    **“false prophets”** (4:1),  
    **“those who try to deceive”** (2:26; 3:7),  
    & **“antichrists”** (2:7).

He identifies  
the absolute source  
of all such defection  
**from sound doctrine**  
as demonic (4:1-7).

This is so serious he writes in chap. 4:1 and 3,

<sup>1</sup> *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1, NIV)*

<sup>3</sup> *This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world (1 John 4:3, NIV)*

That some strong stuff...

*False prophets (v. 1).*

*The antichrist (v. 3).*

This was a horrible situation.

Without a word from God  
they could be overrun with lies.

No wonder John would write in 5:13,

<sup>13</sup> *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13, NIV)*

Wouldn't you need assurance  
if so many **false teachings**  
were swirling around?

You'd want to know for sure  
that you're saved.

That's one of the things  
John does in this letter.

That's why he goes back to obedience.

Obedience is the root of everything.

John makes it as understandable as possible  
so man is without excuse.

<sup>3</sup>*This is love for God:  
to obey his commands.* (1 John 5:3, NIV)

<sup>6</sup>*And this is love: that we walk  
in obedience to his commands.* (2 John 1:6, NIV)

You can talk yourself blue in the face,  
but the truth about you  
is based upon  
whether or not you are obedient.

Obedience is not optional  
in the Christian life!

There are good things  
that won't happen in our lives  
and in the lives of people around us  
if we don't learn how to obey.

So in chapter 1 John 1:7-9  
John gives us  
two definite tests of obedience.

That brings us to our text today in 1 John 1:5-10,

<sup>5</sup> *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*

<sup>6</sup> *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.*

<sup>7</sup> *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.*

<sup>8</sup> *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

<sup>9</sup> *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

<sup>10</sup> *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. (1 John 1:5-10, NIV)*

**I. The first definite test of obedience is from v. 7**

*“if we walk in the light as he is in the light.”*

- A. That's a statement only God could make given the fact that once we were controlled by the sinful nature (Eph 2:1-2; Rom 7:5).

<sup>1</sup> *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,*

<sup>2</sup> *in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

<sup>3</sup> *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. (Ephesians 2:1-3, NIV)*

1. That's ugly isn't it?

- a. dead in your sins.
- b. following the devil.
- c. the spirit who is now at work  
in those who are disobedient.
- d. gratifying the cravings of the sinful nature.
- e. following its desires and thoughts.

2. This is what some call "living the good life."

- a. But there's a difference  
in how God defines life  
and sinful man.
- b. To man sin is fun; to God is death!
- c. Aren't you glad God  
didn't leave us  
in our sins and transgressions?

3. We're not to be controlled  
by the flesh  
because we've been set free!

<sup>4</sup> *But because of his great love for us, **God, who is rich in mercy,***

<sup>5</sup> ***made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.*** (Eph 2:4-5, NIV)

- a. Now we are like Jesus  
in our **new nature**.
- b. We have been adopted  
into the family of God.
- c. Our adoption occurs  
at our conversion to Christ,  
which happens at baptism.

<sup>26</sup> *You are all sons of God through faith in  
Christ Jesus,*

<sup>27</sup> *for all of you who were baptized into  
Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*  
(Gal 3:26-27, NIV)

- (1) This is a beautiful picture.
- (2) Paul says  
we put on a new nature  
through regeneration.
- (3) We put off the “old self” (Rom 6:6)  
and put on a new holy one (Eph  
4:22-24).

<sup>22</sup> *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;*  
<sup>23</sup> *to be made new in the attitude of your minds;*  
<sup>24</sup> *and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*  
(Eph 4:22-24, NIV)

(4) In a sense,  
this “new self”  
is **none other**  
than Christ himself.

(5) That’s why Paul  
says of himself  
in Gal 2:20,

<sup>20</sup> *... I no longer live, but Christ lives in me* (Gal 2:20, NIV)

d. If we obey God, *we walk in the light, as he is in the light.*

B. There are two consequences  
*to walking in the light:*



1. The first consequence  
of *walking in the light is,*

<sup>7</sup> *we have fellowship with one another.*

a. This is a test...

b. You can't have communion with God  
and **neglect** fellowship  
with other Christians.

(1) If you think you can have  
a personal relationship with God  
and not be an active part of the church,  
you're wrong.

(2) If you think you can come  
and sit here on Sunday mornings  
without being involved  
in the lives of other Christians,  
you're wrong.

<sup>7</sup> *But if we walk in the light, as he is in  
the light, we have fellowship with one  
another (1 John 1:7, NIV)*

(3) True fellowship with God  
comes through men!

- (4) Love of other Christians  
is the **product**  
of the love of God.
- (5) Fellowship with your brothers  
is **the proof**  
of fellowship  
with God.
- (6) What does that say  
about someone  
who doesn't get involved?
- (7) I'll come back to that in a minute.

c. A second consequence  
*to walking in the light is,*

<sup>7</sup> ... *the blood of Jesus, his Son,  
purifies us from all sin.*

1. This cleansing is special  
because Jesus' blood is special.

2. It results in  
forgiveness,  
restoration  
& the reestablishment of love.

3. But wait,  
this hits us right  
where we live.
- (a) If we obey God,  
that is,  
*if walk in the light, as he walks in the light,*  
we can't walk alone.
- (b) Too many people  
have convinced themselves  
that they can walk alone.
- (c) Christianity is not  
a "walk alone" religion.
- (d) You can't get the **blood**  
without the fellowship.
- (e) Our flesh lies to us  
and tells us we can.
- (f) It tells us  
we can do it alone.
- (g) But we can't.
- (h) It's the fellowship, John says,  
that leads to confession and purification.

To whom are you to confess  
if you have no one?

**So this brings us to...**

**II. The second definite test of obedience in v. 9,**

*<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*  
(1 John 1:9, NIV)

A. Freedom from sin comes  
not by **denial**  
but by confessing and abandoning it.

1. Confession **links** us  
to the mercy of God!
2. Our first reaction is  
to **hide our sin** from God  
just like Adam and Eve.
3. But Christ commands us  
to confess it.

B. The truth is, we must confess our sins!

1. It's not easy; it's not fun; it's hard!
2. But if we confess our sins,  
God will forgive us.

C. Do you see the relationship  
between confession and forgiveness?

1. Forgiveness comes **because of confession**.
2. No confession, no forgiveness.
3. No forgiveness, no removal of guilt.
4. The guilt hangs on us  
and **feels like** a 1000 lbs.
5. It's what keeps people  
from experiencing  
the fullness of God!
6. Illustration of Pete  
and his fall back into his old life.

D. Confession has a second component.

1. If we confess our sins,  
God *will purify us*  
*from all unrighteousness.*
- Do you see this starts with us?
  - If we confess our sins, He will...

- a. Even though sin exists  
*as a root within us,*  
God cleanses us  
from all the dirt, filth, & contamination.
  
- b. We stand before God  
sinless and perfect.
  
- c. But remember,  
we believe in Jesus,  
confess our sins  
and trust in the blood of Jesus  
to purify us.

2. You may ask, how can this be true?

- a. How can God really forgive me,  
given all I have done?
  
- b. Verse 9 tells us,  
*He's faithful and just.*
  
- c. He can do it  
because He loves you so much.
  
- d. And because you obey Him.

Conclusion

The Bible teaches  
that God will forgive  
any repentant sinner  
who turns away from his sin,  
turns to God  
and confesses his sins.

That's Paul's message,

<sup>38</sup> *“Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. (Acts 13:38, NIV)*

That's why  
we give you the chance  
to confess your sins  
every Sunday.

If you are a Christian, v. 9 speaks to you,

<sup>9</sup> *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

If you're not a Christian,  
the principle of sin  
as the power of darkness  
must be excluded from your life.  
Sin is your enemy!

Obedience to God is your friend.

<sup>38</sup> *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38, NIV)*

So...

<sup>4</sup> *The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

<sup>5</sup> *But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. (1 John 4:20, NIV)*