**Day 4: Cover or Confess**

1 John 1: 5-10

Last time, we saw that John declares we can have fellowship with God and with other believers in Jesus Christ.

Our working definition of fellowship is “a sharing of a common life”.

1. What is that common life we share? (Hint: it is the real life that John is talking about in this letter.)
2. So then, can a believer have fellowship with an unbeliever? Or can an unbeliever have fellowship with God?
3. What do you glean from the following verses:

2 Cor. 6:14

Eph. 5:11

1. Fellowship is not an automatic in the life of a true Christian. If we are out of fellowship with God, it is usually for one of 3 reasons. What are they?

1.

2.

3.

Hint: **Each reason reflects** one of the 3 themes John uses to test fellowship and later sonship. Those themes are **obedience, love and truth.**

In verses 5-10, John deals with maintaining our fellowship. He uses a contrast between what we say and what we actually do.

1. What is the message that John and others heard from Him and have declared to others? (v5) (Remember, God is light reflects His holiness!)
2. If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, what two things can we be assured of? (v6)
3. In verse 8, John establishes what?
4. In verse 9, what must we continually do in dealing with sin; and what two things can we know God will do?

*Confess* means “to say the same as”. We say (and believe) the same thing about our sin that God says about it. It is in the present tense in the Greek, so it means, “I continually confess my sin”.

1. What is John saying verse 10? Explain in your own words.

**Application:** I encourage you to take time to read and consider all that David says in Psalm 51, a prayer of confession. This prayer can serve as a pattern for us when we are guilty of sin.

* Freely admit your sin… be honest with God (verse 3,4)
* Display real sorrow over your sin (verse 7)
* Ask God’s forgiveness (verse 1, 7-9)
* Know that God has heard and will restore you to fellowship. (verses 12-15)

Remember, confession of sin is important to maintaining true fellowship!