

Week Two Study Guide - 1st John 1:5-10

Scripture

5 This is the message we heard from Jesus[c] and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

Questions

Can you think of a test you failed? What happen?

Many have said that the book of 1st John is a book of test to see if you are really following after Jesus. The first test is do you walk in the light? According to vs 7 what do those who walk in the light receive? (Forgiveness of sin)

Brett talked about walking in the light being two things according to this scripture. Do you remember what they were? (Having fellowship and admitting/confessing our sins)

Fellowship is more than Christians getting together and having a meal. The root of fellowship is having love for people. Do you love people or do you love what people can give you? Here are some questions to ask to examine your heart to see if you love people. Do you gossip constantly about people behind their backs? When someone is hurting are you glad because they deserve it? Do you see relationships with people as problems or opportunities to further yourself? Do you only like people who look and act like you?

Love for people comes down to putting other people in front of you. Can you think of one way this week to put other people's needs in front of your own?

The 2nd way we walk in the light is by admitting and confessing our sin. Many think that Christians believe that they are perfect. The exact opposite should be true. Christians should be defined by humility and a willingness to admit their sins. Is there any sin you know of that you need to confess to God? What about any sin you need to confess to a close friend or family member?

Devotional

When I was in 4th grade I wanted to be Brett Favre. My parents signed me up to play football for the Blair Bears and I was dead set on being a quarterback. The problem was that I weight 140 pounds and I was not even legally allowed to run with the ball. I would go to the backyard and practice passing the ball to a tree that I pretended to be a Packer Wide Receiver. On one of those occasions, about a week before football was going to start, my dad came out and gently let me know that I was not a quarterback, but a lineman. I did not want to accept that. The truth is my body at that time was not built to be a quarterback. I could not even lose 40 pounds to get to the point where I could legally touch the football in that league. I could try as hard as I wanted, but there was no chance of me playing QB that year.

In some ways Christianity is the same way. No matter how hard you try to walk in the light (walking in a relationship with Jesus) you will not be able to do it on your own. Walking in the light is not about being a good person, but about receiving a new heart. This new heart gives you the ability to love people even when it is hard. This new heart gives you new eyes to see that you are a sinner and in need of confession. John's test in the book of 1st John are not to see if you are good enough to follow Jesus, but to help you diagnosis and see if you really are following Jesus. God wants to change you from the inside out, not the outside in.

Action Steps

Think - Do you love people? Are you willing to admit your mistakes?

Act - If you are fighting with some sort of sin, find someone to confess that sin to. See if they can partner with you to fight it.

Pray- Pray that God will continue to change your heart. That you will have the type of love that He has for people. Also pray that God will show you your sin.