

St George's, Paris : Bible Study #1

Fellowship and Forgiveness: I John 1

Christians are supposed to be committed to 'fellowship'. This evening we think about what that might be – what it implies – what makes it a genuine experience and most importantly, if it is such a good thing how can we have fellowship with God?

Group Discussion: what normally comes to mind when you think of

- ◆ fellowship with others?
- ◆ fellowship with God?

Personal Reflection: What are some of the barriers you have experienced to deepening your fellowship with others and with God?

John begins this first letter with a prologue (vv 1-4) in which he presents to his readers the basis for fellowship with God the Father and the Son, with the apostles and Christians in general. He then goes on to present the first of a series of challenges – to us – to see if we are in fellowship with God.

Read I John 1

1. John begins this chapter by announcing an apostolic message. What is the content of this message? (vv 1-2)
2. What would it like to have been the bearer of this message?
3. What are John's reasons for announcing his message (vv 3-4)
4. In light of this apostolic message, what is the foundation of our fellowship as Christians?
Why is this so essential?
5. Describe the test John is using to determine if we have fellowship with God? (vv. 5-10)
6. The basis for this test is God's character (v.5). What specifically do *light* and *darkness* symbolize (vv. 5-7; see John 3., 19-21)?
7. The first part of John's test concerns the way we live or 'walk' (vv. 6-7). What type of person is John describing here?
8. The second part of John's test concerns our attitude towards sin (vv 8-10). What does our denial or confession of sin reveal about our relationship with God?
9. What attitudes in your own heart and life does this text bring to light?
10. Based on your study of this passage, what does it mean to have fellowship with God and with each other?
11. Does John's test strengthen or weaken your assurance of fellowship with God? Explain.

Pray that God might use this passage to encourage you to demonstrate the reality of your fellowship with God.

Now or later...

What steps could you take to enjoy a greater fellowship with those who also know the Father and the Son?