

Lesson 2

Small Group Discussion

1 John 2:1-14



Context of the Chapter

The apostle John continues the theme of the importance of fellowship (having a relationship) with God. He explains that a relationship with God is active not passive. In order to experience God we must turn from our sin, hatred, and bitterness, and must turn to love and forgiveness. This is all rooted in the fact that Jesus did the same for us. He died for us, He loved us, and He forgave us while we were still sinners and against Him (**Romans 5:1-11**). Out of our love and gratitude from experiencing the love of God we too must walk as He walked... in love!

Questions/Sermon Study

1 John 2:1-6

The theme from chapter 1 is continued, we cannot walk in sin and walk with God. The first step of this is confession, confession that leads to repentance, and repentance leads us to experiencing God.

1. What is confession?

- Greek: **ὁμολογέω** (homologeō): *Homo* means the same, and *logeō* means to speak. Therefore, to confess means to say the same as. It is not only an acknowledgement of wrong, but it is a heart felt recognition between our heart and God's heart. We are saying the same thing about our sinful action, thought, or word as God says about it.
- Do you find yourself "confessing" in a Biblical sense, on a consistent basis?
- Do you feel like you know what God thinks about your actions from knowing His Word?

2. What is Repentance?

- In short repentance is a change of mind that leads to a changing of direction. In simple terms repentance requires action! If we simply acknowledge our sin without any true change we will fit **1 John 2:4**, we will be found liars!
- **2 Corinthians 7:9-11** is a great example of true repentance and what fruit is produced.
- Do you find yourself repenting on a daily basis in the way the Bible describes?
- Are you purposefully leaving your own way and embracing God's?
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1 John 2:7-11

3. What is Christ-like love?

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-7** *It is impossible to achieve Christ-like love on our own. In order to display this kind of love we must*

- Confess that we are powerless to overcome our self-centered way of life.
 - Confess that through the power and love of Christ He can change us as we trust Him.
 - Be disciplined to obey the conviction of the Holy Spirit
 - Do not justify our selfishness even if it seems small
 - Put into practice sacrificial serving of others, especially when we do not feel like it
 - Thank God for His sacrificial love for us in Christ
 - Thank God for His forgiveness
 - Thank God for allowing us to love and forgive others.
4. When we do not love, what happens to us according to **1 John 2:11**? *We are blind, we are unable to experience God.*
- Do you have any grudges in your life that are blinding you from experiencing God?
5. **1 John 2:12-14** states a description of spiritual maturity and growth. The Apostle John mentions children, young men, and fathers. Each stage of maturity has different characteristics attached to it. Discuss why you think they are in the order that they are in. Where do you find yourself?
- Children: Knowing your sins are forgiven. Know the Father.
 - Children in the faith have come to accept the sacrifice of Christ and understand that the Father loves them and accepts them
 - Young Men: Overcome the Evil one, strong and abide in the Word of God.
 - Young men in the faith are active in overcoming sin, advancing the kingdom of God, and knowing the Word of God. They remain steadfast in the foundation of the love of the Father through the blood of Christ.
 - Fathers: You know Him who is from the beginning
 - The fathers in the faith have a deep intimacy and experience with God. They know His love, they have overcome sin and the evil one, and now they have an active experience and knowing of God.

Discipleship Focus & Challenge

We are a church on mission to raise up disciple-makers who share the Gospel where we live, work and play.

*A disciple's heart posture is to be a lifelong follower (**Luke 9:23**), student (**John 15:1-8**), example (**John 13:34-35**), and teacher (**Matthew 28:18-20**) of Jesus Christ.*

Fall Campaign Challenge #2 - Be a follower!

1 John 2 makes it clear that God wants us to experience Him, but an active relationship with God demands spiritual maturity. In order to be a follower of Christ who continues to mature we must deny ourselves and pick up our cross (**Luke 9:23**). This section of Scripture specifically focuses on denying ourselves when it comes to bitterness and hate. Praying for those who hurt us, having a servant's heart when we are mistreated, and actively asking God to help us forgive are all ways we can guard our hearts from darkness. Diagnose 1-3 areas that you are feeding "selfishness" in your life. Give up those behaviors for a week, and replace that with actively praying for those who have hurt you or that you may struggle to fellowship with.

Memorize: 1 John 4:7-8