

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: A Formula for Fellowship

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 1:3-10

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1731

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Christians can slip and fall into sin.
 - i) A true child of God will fear sin.
 - ii) A true child of God, though he may slip and fall, has a desire for a quick recovery.
- b) 1 John 1:3-10
 - i) The way to have fullness of joy is to have fellowship with God and with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - ii) The formula for fellowship is a cleansed life.
- c) Sin is what causes the devastation in this world.
- d) How do we deal specifically with sin?
 - i) We must understand that sin is sin.
 - (1) God only forgives sin; He doesn't forgive mistakes.
 - (a) This is not to say that God judges us for our mistakes.
 - (b) But if we call our sins "mistakes," then we'll never deal with our sins.
 - (2) We need to call sin what it is: sin.
 - (a) The evolutionist believes that life is a result of blind force (that it all just happened) and that sin is just an incident or accident; it's a stumble upward as man is progressing.
 - (i) However, we are not progressing.
 - 1. Man started out made in the image of God in perfection.
 - (ii) It is sin that has ruined the human race.
 - ii) Our fellowship with God will be hindered:
 - (1) If we don't understand sin for what it is, which is an affront to a holy God.
 - (2) If we call sin by some other name, such as a misjudgment, a malfunction, a mistake or a sickness.
 - (3) If we say that man is ill but not evil.
 - (4) If we say that man is weak, not wicked.
 - (5) If we say that man is sick but not sinful.
 - (a) If we say any of these things, then we're not dealing with sin as we ought and will not have fellowship with God.
- e) The problem with today's society is that we all have a burden of guilt without a sense of sin.
 - i) We don't see ourselves as sinners needing to be forgiven; instead, we see ourselves as people who make mistakes who need to be fixed.
 - (1) So, we try to fix ourselves and somehow compensate for the problem, or commiserate with it, without getting cleansed and without getting forgiven.
- f) The world has different ideas on how to handle the sin problem.
 - i) The evolutionist believes that man is on his way upward, and time will take care of it all.
 - (1) The problem is that the longer society goes on, the deeper we sink.

- (2) The evolutionist never sees sin for what it is.
- ii) The educator believes that education is going to handle the sin problem.
 - (1) If this were true, then the people with the most knowledge would be the least sinful.
 - (a) Nazi Germany had one of the highest educational levels in the world when Hitler came to power.
- iii) Science tells us that man's problems are defective genes, and we could solve the sin problem by genetic engineering.
 - (1) However, those who are the most gifted, the most handsome, the strongest and the most intelligent still have a sin problem.
- iv) The sociologist tells us that the sin problem is environmental.
 - (1) If this were true, then why haven't those in the best environments dealt with the sin problem?
- v) The psychologist and the psychiatrist do their best to remove the guilt feeling, but they cannot remove the guilt.
 - (1) Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to the sin problem.
- g) Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God forgives, cleanses and forgets our sin.
 - i) Hebrews 8:12
 - ii) Isaiah 43:25
 - iii) If you are saved, God has forgotten your sins; it is buried, gone and forgiven.
 - (1) This doesn't mean that God forgets intellectually.
 - (a) God could never learn anything or forget anything because He knows everything, and nothing escapes His knowledge.
 - (i) If He could forget intellectually, then this would mean that He would change; and the Bible says that God does not change.
 - 1. Hebrews 13:8
 - (2) God does not remember them as sins but as forgiven sins.
 - (a) What God has forgotten as a sin, we can forget as a sin.
 - iv) Isaiah 1:18
 - v) When we are saved, our sins (past, present and future) are buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness.
 - vi) Romans 4:8
 - (1) As a Christian, there is never a time when God will ever mark any sin to your account.
- h) 1 John 1:6-7
 - i) The child of God knows God in two ways:
 - (1) Sonship
 - (a) Sonship is the relationship we have when we're born again.
 - (b) When we're born into the family of God, we become sons and daughters of God.
 - (c) It is settled; when we are born into God's family, we can never be unborn.

- (d) Sonship is once for all.
 - (2) Fellowship
 - (a) If we disobey our Heavenly Father, fellowship changes.
 - (b) Hebrews 12:11
 - (i) God, like a loving Father, chastens those whom He has received.
 - (c) Sonship is fixed by birth; fellowship is determined by whether or not we are obeying the Father's instructions.
 - ii) If we are truly saved, our sin will never be brought up against us in order to condemn us; but our sin can interrupt fellowship with the Father.
 - (1) 1 John 1:7
 - (2) It's one thing to have sonship; it's another thing to have fellowship.
 - i) There are some things we will see in 1 John that we must learn if we want to get in fellowship and stay in fellowship with God our Father.
- 2) SIN MUST BE EXPOSED TO THE LIGHT (1 JOHN 1:6-10)
- a) When a child of God gets sin in his or her heart, they will oftentimes begin to lie to other people.
 - i) 1 John 1:6
 - ii) Someone who has truly been saved has had his sins forgiven, but he lets some sin get in his heart and life.
 - (1) He then begins to lie to others because he does not confess what's in his heart.
 - (2) He knows that his heart is not right with God, but he doesn't want others to know about it.
 - (a) So, he acts as if everything is fine.
 - iii) 1 John 1:8
 - (1) If we tell that lie long enough, then we're going to begin to believe it.
 - (2) If we make allowance for our sin, we deceive ourselves.
 - iv) 1 John 1:10
 - (1) We end up lying to God.
 - (2) The Holy Spirit tells us that it is sin, and we say that it's not sin; in doing so, we are calling God a liar.
 - v) We try to hide our sin.
 - (1) One of the most dangerous things we can do is to conceal our sin.
 - (2) We say to others and to God that there is no sin in our lives.
 - b) We need to expose sin to the light, not in order to condemn ourselves, but in order to have fellowship with God and with one another.
 - i) 1 John 1:7
 - ii) Light reveals what is wrong.
 - iii) If we want to know whether there is any sin in our hearts, expose it to the light.
 - (1) Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart.
 - (a) Psalm 139:23-24

- (b) The Holy Spirit will convict you of any sin that's in your heart and life today.
- c) The Holy Spirit of God convicts us of sin; the devil accuses us of sin.
- d) What is the difference between Holy Spirit conviction and Satan's accusation? How does the Holy Spirit convict us of sin?
 - i) The Holy Spirit will convict us legitimately.
 - (1) The Holy Spirit will convict us of the sin that has come into our lives that has not yet been confessed and cleansed.
 - (2) The devil will accuse us illegitimately.
 - (a) He will bring up that which has already been cleansed and forgiven.
 - (i) 1 John 1:9
 - (b) Revelation 12:10
 - (i) The devil is called the accuser of the brethren.
 - (c) The devil will lead you into sin and then accuse you for committing that sin.
 - ii) The Holy Spirit will convict us specifically.
 - (1) If the devil cannot accuse us of some sin that's already been forgiven, then he will accuse us generally.
 - (a) He will just tell us that we're no good and unworthy.
 - (i) Our sin nature is under the blood of Jesus Christ, and we have now become partakers of the divine nature; but the devil does not want us to understand that.
 - (b) He will try to make us feel badly all over.
 - (2) The Holy Spirit is like a skilled physician; He puts his finger on the sore spot and pushes.
 - (a) That is where the sin is.
 - (b) The Holy Spirit will call the sin by name.
 - (i) We should never try to deal with sin generally by saying, "Lord, I've sinned; forgive me."
 - (ii) Be specific when confessing sin.
 - 1. We're forgiven when we name the sin specifically.
 - (3) The Holy Spirit will tell us exactly what the sin is.
 - iii) The Holy Spirit will convict us redemptively.
 - (1) The Holy Spirit convicts us so that we will confess and come to fellowship.
 - (a) God wants us to have fellowship with Him.
 - (b) When God deals with us as His children, He's not trying to get even with us; He is trying to restore us to fellowship.
 - (2) The devil accuses us destructively.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit wants to draw us to confession and forgiveness and fellowship.
 - (b) The devil wants to drive us to accusation and despair and away from God.

3) SIN MUST BE EXPRESSED TO THE LORD (1 JOHN 1:9)

- a) We must confess our sin.
 - i) The word confess in this passage means “to say the same thing.”
 - ii) A confession of sin is not just an admission of sin; it is an agreement with God about that sin.
 - (1) We say about that sin what God says about that sin.
 - iii) To confess sin means to name it and to agree with God.
- b) How do we confess sin?
 - i) We must do it immediately.
 - (1) The word “confess” in 1 John 1:9 is in the present tense.
 - (2) Don’t wait until the end of the day to confess all your sins.
 - (3) The Spirit-filled life is not a life where we can never sin.
 - (a) 1 John 1:8
 - (b) It is a life of confession of sin; agreeing with God.
 - ii) Do it specifically.
 - (1) If the Holy Spirit of God convicts specifically, then we confess specifically.
 - (a) Don’t just say, “Lord, forgive my sins.”
 - (2) 1 John 1:9
 - (3) Call it by name.
 - iii) Do it confidently.
 - (1) 1 John 1:9
 - (2) For those sins, Jesus died.
 - (3) We can be totally cleansed; and it will be gone, never to be brought up against us anymore.
 - (4) Acts 10:15

4) CONCLUSION

- a) When we’re clean, we have fellowship with God and with one another.
- b) There is nothing like being clean and right with God.
- c) Are you clean and right with God?
 - i) You first must be saved; you must be born again.
 - (1) John 3:7
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16