



An Important Word #5 - Transparency

Six Words Every Relationship Needs...

- so far we've talked about **Grace, Encouragement, Loyalty, Forgiveness**...today we want to talk about **Transparency**...
- while you're turning there, let me also ask you this...have you been looking for opportunities to apply what we've been studying thus far in our series?...
 - could you point to times where you tried to be more gracious, or more encouraging, or more loyal, or more forgiving?...I know that many could because of the feedback we've been receiving...
 - God calls upon us not only to be hearers of the Word, but to be doers...
- to understand this issue of transparency, please listen for the main themes as I read
- to understand more about what that means, please open your Bible to 1 John chapter 1..... beginning in 1 John 1:1...**read 1:1-2:2**...
- one of the things I love about the book of 1 John is that like any good author, John explains the **[Introduction] - Three reasons John wrote this book:**
 - one purpose is found at the end of 1 John in a verse I didn't just read but one I often quote...
 - **1 John 5:13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.**
 - 1. That we would have greater assurance of our salvation.**
 - another one was found in verse 3...
 - **1 John 1:3 - what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**
 - 2. That we would have greater fellowship with God and man.**
 - fellowship – the Greek word koinia...
 - then the last purpose is found in verse 4...
 - **1 John 1:4 - These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.**
 - 3. That we have greater joy.**
- so, greater assurance of your salvation, greater fellowship with God and man, and greater joy in your life everyday...
- now, any book capable of fulfilling those goals is certainly worth studying, wouldn't you agree?...
- and the one that especially dovetails with the series we're doing right now on relationships is the second one...greater fellowship with God and man...and as I mentioned a moment ago, you probably noticed a key principle here that resonates throughout this passage...
- so here's the way we'd like to divide the rest of our time...

I. The Principle Stated

II. The Principle Explained

III. The Principle in Action

IV. The Principle Made Attainable

I. The Principle Stated.

- it's pretty simple, isn't it?

A. Fellowship with God comes from walking in the light.

- **1 John 1:7 - but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

- so, very simple, right?...the principle is clearly stated -- fellowship with God comes from walking in the God...

- but let me ask you this – what does that mean?...

- sometimes we use Christian phrases without carefully taking time to consider the actual meaning of what we're saying...

B. But what does it mean to walk in the light?

- if I asked you – have you been walking in the light this week, this month, this year...how would answer?...

- and more importantly, what evidence would you give to support your answer...

- that ambiguity is why we need to move from the principle stated to...

II. The Principle Explained

- look at verses 8 and 10 again – but this time with the purpose of trying to more carefully understand what this phrase walking in the light means...

- **1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

- **1 John 1:10 - If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.**

- when John talks about walking in the light...he's talking about having an open attitude toward admitting your sinfulness...

- I'm willing to have my sin exposed...

- that's what we mean by being transparent...allowing the Word of God to help you see ways you need to change...

- that's what light does – it exposes...here's an illustration of that from the gospel of John...

- **John 3:20 - For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.**

- add that now to our understanding of walking in the light...

- light always exposes something...

- I can prove that really quickly...ladies, does your house appear to be cleaner at high noon, or at 9:00 at night?

- And so put all of this together...

A. Fellowship with God comes from walking in the light, and walking in the light means having an open attitude toward having your sin exposed.

- another way of saying that is...

B. There is a significant difference between being a "Genesis 3 kind of person" and a "1 John 1 kind of person."

- see, how did Adam and Eve respond when they were confronted with their sin?...

- was it walking in the light...was it transparent?...an open attitude toward having their sin exposed?...
- no...they ran, hid, covered it up, and tried to blame it on one another...
- and friends, we have enough on the table to begin asking some evaluative questions...
- do you walk in the light?...do you have an open attitude toward admitting your own sinfulness?...
- and how would those closest to you answer that question on your behalf?...
- now here's something else we need to throw on the table...

C. The question isn't the fact, but your attitude toward the fact.

- **1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**
 - in case we missed the point – it's basically restated in verse 10...
- **1 John 1:10 - If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.**
- so the question isn't the fact...it's your attitude toward the fact...your attitude makes all the difference...
- that's true in so many areas of life...
 - cf. a car warranty
- do you realize one business built themselves on that issue – if you buy a tool from us and it breaks for any reason...bring it back and we'll replace it no questions asked...
- in fact, there was a day when these words were proudly etched over every door...satisfaction guaranteed...
 - we made that tool...we promised that it would never break...if it does, bring it back and our attitude will be – we'll make that right...right now...
 - we don't need to know what you did...our tool failed, end of story...
 - do you know what business I'm talking about...Sears and Roebuck...
- and of course the point here is – the question isn't the fact...it's your attitude toward the fact...
- I mentioned an important biblical example a couple of weeks ago but we were really flying so let's think about it again...
 - it's from the life of King David...a man who was imperfect for sure but yet he's referred to in the NT as a man after God's own heart...
- events like this might help us understand why...
 - at this point in his life, he's running for his life from his son Absalom...
 - so David's with his mighty band of men but he doesn't want to attack his own son...
- imagine the shame and misery that would go with an event like that...
- and yet right in the midst of it appears this man named Shimmei...

- **2 Samuel 16:5-8 - When King David came to Bahurim, behold, there came out from there a man of the family of the house of Saul whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he came out cursing continually as he came. He threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David; and all the people and all the mighty men were at his right hand and at his left. Thus Shimei said when he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of bloodshed, and worthless fellow! "The LORD has returned upon you all the bloodshed of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. And behold, you are *taken* in your own evil, for you are a man of bloodshed!"**

- so here's the king of Israel, being pursued by his own son...and now there's this added burden of this guy showing up and throwing rocks and duct from up above at the king and his men saying that David's just getting what he always had coming...and that he's nothing more than a worthless fellow...

- **2 Samuel 16:9 - Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over now and cut off his head."**

- what would you have said in that situation...sounds like a plan?, I'm good with that?...

- **2 Samuel 16:10 - But the king said, "What have I to do with you, O sons of Zeruiah? If he curses, and if the LORD has told him, 'Curse David,' then who shall say, 'Why have you done so?' "**

- see, there it is – maybe this is coming from the Lord...

D. This principle will not affect your relationship God but your relationship with other people.

- see, look at verse 7 one more time...

- **1 John 1:6-7 - If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

- here's the question – when you perceive that someone has sinned against you – what do you focus on...what they did, or what you did/or need to do now?...see, are you walking in the light in your relationship with other people?...

- now, there's a very important verse that goes along with all of this...

- **Matthew 7:3 - "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"**

- cf. the electric bill...

- cf. Bethany and the bike wreck...

- cf. why do little leopards have spots?...

- see, fellowship with God...

- now, wouldn't it be great if there was some kind of test to help you to determine how well you're doing at this matter of walking in the light?...

(Principle stated, principle explained...)

II. The Principle in Action

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A. Fellowship with God comes from walking in the light, and walking in the light means having an open attitude toward having your sin exposed, and you can tell how open you are to it by thinking about how many times you ask forgiveness from God and the other people in your life...

B. This is the capstone of the principle.

- God doesn't expect perfection...

- now you might say...this is hard...that's an understatement...which is why the final point in this discussion is so very important...

IV. The Principle Made Attainable

A. Jesus is your advocate.

- your attorney...

- **Revelation 12:10 - The accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.**

B. Jesus is your propitiation.