

*Studies in the Book of 1 John*  
**“FOCUS OF FELLOWSHIP”**

Ralph “Yankee” Arnold

**Lesson 2**

**TEXT: 1 John 1:5-2:2**

**Theme: Divine Fellowship rests upon Divine Forgiveness**

**Outline:**

- 1. The Fellowship Message for God’s Children 1 John 1:5**
  - A. **“God is light”, and “in Him is no darkness (sin) at all”**  
Here John establishes the basis of a believer’s fellowship with God.
    - B. **Amos 3:3** “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”
- 11. Sin is a Destroyer of Fellowship I John 1:6-2:2**
  - A. If a Christian says he is in fellowship with God and he is walking in darkness (living in sin), that person is lying. We cannot have sin (that old sinful nature) control our lives and at the same time be in fellowship with God.
  - B. This verse is written in the present (continuous) tense in the original language. Another way it could be explained is: If we **are saying** that **we are having** fellowship with him, and **we are walking** in darkness, **we are lying**, and **are not doing** the truth.”
  - C. Sin injures fellowship, but not our relationship with God. It is not one act of sin, but a continual action (“walk” of sin) that destroys fellowship with God.
- 111. Confession is a Developer of Fellowship**
  - A. True fellowship with God comes from a “walk”, a continuous action of obedience to God’s Word. Just like one act of sin will not break fellowship with God neither will one act of obedience restore broken fellowship with God. Fellowship is restored when the walk is restored.
  - B. Three things to confess to God and yourself:
    1. 1 John 1:8 Confess that you still have a sinful nature.
    2. 1 John 1:10 Confess that you did sin
    3. 1 John 1:9 Confess that sin to God, with the understanding, that for the sake of His Fellowship you will forsake that sin. (11 Chronicles 7:14)
- 1V. Christ is Defense for our Fellowship 1 John 2:1-2**
  - A. We will never be sinless until we get our glorified bodies, but we should always strive to sin less.
  - B. But when we do sin, we have an “advocate”, a go-between with God the father. The word advocate literally means one who pleads another’s cause before a judge, a council for defense, a legal assistant.

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