



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# Righting the Wrong Reading of John

Bible Reading: 1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him. 6 If we say, "We have fellowship with him," and yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. 7 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. 8 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

## I. Introduction

A. John is addressing issues in the church – no church without issues

B. John is writing to believers within the church – 1 John 5:13

C. Purpose of 1 John vs. the Gospel

1. The Gospel seeks to lead to belief in Jesus
2. The epistles seek to give assurance of eternal life based on belief and practice

D. John corrects their misunderstanding of the gospel

1. We must believe, unbelief in John's gospel is the unique sin
2. However, belief does not make us sinless.
3. It is Jesus' death (blood), which is the atonement for our sins that gives us forgiveness and cleansing from sin. (more on this next week)

## II. The nature of God: v. 5

A. John's message not based on personal authority; he's conveying God's message

B. Knowing eternal life includes knowing the nature of God

C. The nature of God is light

### III. Correcting the misunderstanding regarding sin

A. First claim (v. 6)

B. Counter argument (v. 7)

1. Walking in the light
2. Results of walking in the light
  - a. We have fellowship with one another
  - b. The blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin

C. Second claim (v. 8)

D. Counter argument (v. 9)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1. Authentic Christians confess their sins
2. The results – forgiveness and cleansing
3. How and what do we confess?
  - a. Specific things that we are aware of when we are in the light
  - b. Thoughts – we confess to God
  - c. Actions against others if they are aware or are affected
  - d. Do not need a priest to confess to
4. Believing in God's faithfulness to forgive and cleanse
  - a. Not needing penance or to be sorry for a week
  - b. Believing Christ's death was good enough

E. Third claim (v. 10) – summary of vv. 6-9

### III. Conclusion:

- A. God's nature and being define the moral standard for human life
- B. Jesus' death for our atonement is central to having fellowship with God – this is the heart of the gospel
- C. To deny the reality of sin in general or the sin in one's own life is in essence to consider God a liar, thus destroying relationship with God.