

## GETTING BACK IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

### 1 John 1:3-10

**Introduction:** Children have a way of not always doing what their parents tell them to do and sometimes it is unknowingly but most of the time it is because they want to do what they want to do. Therefore a relationship is broken between the disobedient child and the parents. Sometimes a big hug and "I'm sorry" from the child to the parent will make things alright again. Sometimes the parent has to do something to get the child's attention about what he/she did that was wrong. Christian, we do the same thing with our heavenly father. We are His children and when we do things He doesn't want us to do, we get out of fellowship with Him. So, how does a child of God get back in fellowship with God?

### I. THE WRONG COMMITTED HAS TO BE RECOGNIZED

1. The erring Christian must recognize that he/she has sinned.
  - God will forgive us our sins, but we must recognize what we have done and admit it.
  - It doesn't matter what we call it, but a sin is a sin in the eyes of God.
  - A sin is "missing the mark" God has set for us.
2. It was sin that first separated man (Adam) from God.
  - If we don't recognize sin as offensive to God, we will never be able to have fellowship.
  - Often we have a burden of guilt, knowing something isn't just right, but we don't call it sin.
3. Sometimes we try to fix ourselves up and compensate for our sin without ever actually getting rid of the sin itself.
  - Some say there is no such thing as an actual "sin" for we are all on our way up.
  - Some say that we can eventually be taught to live without sin.
  - Others say that solving the problems of the natural world will do away with sin.
  - There are those who say that sin comes from an unhealthy environment or a bad childhood.
  - Then there are some who say that one's guilty feelings about sin can be erased by talking good about one's self.
  - Everybody wants to ignore God and God's statements about sin, deny sin and act like there is not going to be a day of justice/accounting.

### II. THE WRONG HAS TO BE REPENTED OF

1. If/when we go to God and sincerely repent of what we have done (sin), He will forgive us and cleanse us, forgetting our sins.
  - *"...their iniquities will I remember no more.." (Hebrews 8:12)*
  - *"...I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins..." (Isaiah 43:25)*
  - *"...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..." (Isaiah 1:18)*
  - All our sins, past, present, and future, will never be brought up against us any more upon our sincerely repenting of them.

2. The Christian has a "two-fold" relationship with God, the Father.
  - We are His children - sons, daughters, by birth and that can't be taken away.
  - We have fellowship with God our Father when we stay away from sin.
    - Sin doesn't affect our child/Father relationship, but it does affect our fellowship.

### III. WE MUST TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TO GETTING BACK IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

1. We must expose our sin to God's light:
  - *"...If we say..."* Words are one thing but don't necessarily mean the truth.
  - Sometimes we lie to others and say things are alright between us and God and even act like it but our hearts are not right with God but we don't want anybody to know, so we lie.
  - A spiritual schizophrenic is a Christian who is lying about his/her being fellowship with God, who has sin in his/her life. God calls that person a liar.
  - Hiding our sins is a dangerous thing to do.
  - Hiding sin is lying to others, ourselves, and to God and we even begin to believe our lies.
  - Once our sin is finally out in the open before God, we can be honest with Him and others.
  - God's light reveals what is wrong in us.
  - The closer we get to a bright light, the more our imperfections show up.
  - God's Word is the light that will expose the sin in our life.
  - The Holy Spirit will reveal what's wrong with our heart and convict us of our sin.
  - God as our heavenly Father, wants to be in constant fellowship with us, His children.
2. We must express our sin to the Lord.
  - We must agree with God about the sin in our life.
  - We must call our sins by name and admit exactly what we have done.
  - We must not wait for the end of the day or end of the week. We must tell the Lord NOW.
  - When we get something in our eye, we don't wait till bedtime to get it out.
  - The Christian, spirit filled life is not a life without sin, but is a life of close fellowship with God.
  - If our Christian life is like a roller coaster, up and down, that's not what God wants.
  - Confessing our sins specifically and immediately will help keep us in constant fellowship.

### CONCLUSION:

1. People are looking for ways to fellowship with God and Jesus said, *"...if we confess our sins..."*
  - Jesus Christ is always there and ready to forgive, permanently, totally as often as needed.
2. People are looking for ways to feel clean, to get rid of the guilt of sin.
  - Jesus Christ can take the dirt of sin away, but people have to let Jesus do it, His way.
3. There is only one way to forgiveness and God has already done the hard work. We need to go to Him and confess our sins in sincerity and He will forgive, cleanse and restore us.