

### Sharing Our Stories...

Though followers of Christ are forgiven, we all still struggle with sin and failure.

Since receiving Christ, to what degree have you been aware of struggles with sin and failure?

### Reflecting on our Struggles...

#### "Discussion Questions"

- How would you feel if you knew you had failed a family member, close friend, or someone you admired?
- How would these feelings affect your actions and responses in your relationship with your family?
- How would it impact you if you didn't know that the other person had forgiven you?
- What difference does forgiveness make in a relationship?
- Just as conflict can affect your relationship in your family, so can sin have a similar impact in our relationship with Christ. How?



### Think About it

How would you change your thoughts & behavior if Jesus were always physically present with you? What actions & attitudes would you try to change?

How you deal with your sins and struggles will affect how you experience your relationship with Christ for He is with you always (Hebrews 13:5).

## Exploring the Solution

John is writing to a church family who has become upset by false teachers. In this section, he is dealing with wrong attitudes and claims about sin as a result. All of his responses are based on the truth about who God is and what it is like to live in a relationship with Him.

#### The Foundation (1:5)

What does it mean that God is light? \_\_\_\_\_

What does light do in everyday life? \_\_\_\_\_

How would God's character do a similar thing in our life? \_\_\_\_\_

#### False Claim (1:6) ~ Right Response (1:7)

As we live in a right relationship with God, what is happening to our sin? \_\_\_\_\_

#### False claim (1:8) ~ Right Response (1:9)

What are we to do about our sin? \_\_\_\_\_

What does confess mean? \_\_\_\_\_

What does God do as we confess our sins? \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 John 1:5-2:2

5This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. 2My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

#### False Claim (1:10) ~ Right Response (2:1-2)

What is John encouraging us to do about sin? \_\_\_\_\_

What should my attitude be toward sin? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the ultimate solution to our sin? \_\_\_\_\_

**3** **Three Wrong Approaches:**  
 My sin doesn't matter.  
 There is nothing wrong with me.  
 I've done nothing wrong.

**Three Right Responses:**

- Learn about who God is and let this affect your daily relationship with Him.
- Openly agree with God about your sin.
- Seek the Savior and savor what He's done for you - this will help you avoid sin

**The Issue** **How do I respond to sin?**

When I first trusted Christ as my Savior, how many areas of my life were perfect?

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How many of my sins were forgiven when I came to Christ?

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**A. Read 1 John 1:7**

How does God deal with the sins and shortcomings of which I'm not aware?

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**B. Read 1 John 1:9**

What should I do when I deliberately disobey God?

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**Confession** involves 3 things:

- 1** Agree with God that we have sinned.
- 2** Agree with God that He has forgiven it.
- 3** Turn away from the sin. (Repentance)

**Summary:** To walk in the light is...

- To learn more about God's character and Who He is. This is what causes us to love Him more.
- To openly agree with God about my sin.
- To seek to avoid sin as I become more aware of what displeases God.



**Taking Steps:** Three steps will help you live these truths.

**1** **Claim Christ's cleansing.**  
 In prayer, thank God for continuing to cleanse you from all sin.

**2** **Confess specific sins.**  
 On your own, make a list on paper of any sin of which you are currently aware. Confess it to God, writing 1 John 1:9 across the page. Tear up the list. This is a visual reminder that Jesus Christ has cleansed you from your sins by His death.

**3** **Chose to turn from sin and seek the Savior.**  
 Be aware that by ourselves, we lack the ability to change or avoid sin. We must rely on God's power, the Holy Spirit.

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**Overcoming helplessness & Becoming Empowered**  
**NEXT LESSON:**  
*Understanding the Spirit filled life.*