

THE BOOK OF FIRST JOHN

GBC EQUIPPING HOUR | JANUARY 17, 2021



The Confession & The Walk – 1 John 1:5-2:2

PURPOSE: To know how to make the church sustainable for future generations with *orthodox* agape love.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But 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 cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just 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. ^{2:1} My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- 1 John 1:5-2:2

I. **Continuing on the Theme of *Authenticity*...** (from prev. lesson)

A. Stark Contrast #1: What Satan is Known For

- Deception (Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 11:3)
- Destruction (John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8)

B. Stark Contrast #2: What False Teachers are Known For

Same as the above, but they have to first look like Christians for a period of time. Note how the Disciples of Christ were oblivious to Judas' schemes in John 13:21-26 (cf. 1 John 2:19).

II. **Shepherding By Dual Concepts in 1 John 1:5-2:2**

*The Bible isn't simply a historical book of facts -it is a living means of shepherding God's people away from danger and towards Eternal safety. The people written to in First John were facing a clear and imminent danger of little "antichrists" (1 John 2:18) assimilating with them. Like other New Testament writers John will eventually reveal the false teachers' signature traits. But before this, he maintains how we who are true believers are to keep our testimony as we traverse between **two tall protecting walls**: the first of warning and the second of reward.*

(Note: other biblical examples of this parenting-like approach may be seen in Deuteronomy 28 and Matthew 5-7).

A. The Two: God is Holy and is Gracious (1:5 and 2:1-2)

- How is God's attribute of holiness displayed in 1:5?

- How is God's attribute of grace displayed in 2:1-2?

B. The Two: Path of Darkness vs. Path of Light (1:6-10)

- What is the hardship of walking in darkness?

- What is the upside of walking in the Light?

III. What This Means for Us

A. Shore Up The Area You're Weakest On

For some people, the Bible is **all law and no grace** -so, there's work to be done to see how God's grace is a sweet motivator to stay faithful. For others, the Bible is **all grace and no law** -so there's work to be done in taking biblical warnings seriously.

For some people, they're big on the **walk** and shallow on the details of their confession of faith. For others, it's just the opposite and "being Christian" is all a **cerebral** self-discipline (armchair & pipe Christianity).

B. Apologetics Isn't Only for Wartime; It's for Peacetime Too

Between the spiritual attacks of the Evil One, there is the matter of where our hearts are wandering off to without any outside influence present (i.e., Satan can't be everywhere, but our minds can wander anywhere).

The Book of First John Course Outline:

- January 3 - Introduction
- January 10 - Authentic Christian Fellowship / 1 John 1:1-4
- January 17 - The Confession & The Walk / 1 John 1:5-2:2
- January 24 - Triumph of Light over Darkness / 1 John 2:3-11
- January 31 - Rallying the Troops / 1 John 2:12-17
- February 7 - The Congregational Anointing / 1 John 2:18-27
- February 14 - Know Your Roots / 1 John 2:28-3:10
- February 21 - Practical Agape Love / 1 John 3:11-24
- February 28 - Spiritual Discernment / 1 John 4:1-6
- March 7 - Perfected Agape Love / 1 John 4:7-5:4
- March 14 - Orthodox Christology / 1 John 5:5-12
- March 21 - Peace (and War) unto Eternity / 1 John 5:13-21
- March 28 - Conclusion