**Living in Fellowship with God**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 53: 1-3 John

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

May 2, 2021

**SERMON NOTES**

1. **God Is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (1John 1:5)

*Because we have fellowship with a God of light…*

1. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the light (1John 1:5-2:6)

*Walking in the light involves both obedience and transparency*

* Demonstrates we are \_\_\_\_ Him (1:5-6)
* Provides us continual cleansing (1:7)
* Distinguishes us from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:1-6)

1. We reflect His light by living in love (2:8-9)

* Those who hate are living in darkness (2:9)

*Loving God = Obedience (5:3; 2John 8; See John 14:15)*

* Those who love are in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:10)

1. We embrace the light

* We don’t love the darkness (2:15-17)
* We reject \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (false teaching) (2:21; 4:1-6; 2John)
* We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ truth (right teaching) (3John)

*People of the light don’t live in sin (2:28-3:10; 5:18)*

1. **God Is Love**

*Because we have fellowship with a God of love…*

1. We walk in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3:11)

* Hateful living is living in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (darkness) (3:11-15)
* Love gives selflessly to brothers in need (3:16-18)
* Love demonstrates our fellowship with God (3:24; 4:16)

1. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His love by living in love (4:7-12)

* God’s love was demonstrated \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:7-10)
* His love produces our love for one another (4:11-12, 19)
* Failure to love indicates we don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God (4:20-21)

*This life is enabled through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (5:5)*

*Jesus is God, as the Spirit testifies (1:1-3; 5:6-12)*

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. Last week, Peter said that Christians are image-bearers of God, emphasizing holiness. How does Peter’s teaching correspond with John’s?
2. Read 1John 1:5-10, 2:28-3:10, and 5:18. Is sin in the life of a believer the norm or the exception. What happens when a believer sins?
3. What is the difference between hating the darkness (2:9) and hating the people who do the deeds of darkness? How do we make sure we avoid that error?
4. Read 3:16-18. If it is rare that we will be called to die for a brother, how do we live this passage on a daily basis?
5. Read 5:6-12. What false teaching was John addressing? What are his strongest arguments from this passage and from 1:1-3?

**Prayer from John:** “Jesus, I praise you, because you are God. I want to reflect your light and love to the world. Please reveal any love for darkness that remains in me and anything that comes short of selfless love for others, and help me to conform my life to your commandment and example, with your help. Amen.”

**Answers:** Light, **walk,** in, **darkness,** light, **lies,** support, **love,** death, **reflect,** in Jesus, **know,** faith