

1 John 1. *He is real, and so is our distanced heart.*
 From the very beginning, the Word was—we have seen this word, our eyes have seen, we have touched this word, our hands have felt. So? We proclaim life through the Word. The life appeared—we've seen it, we now testify and proclaim it to you, this eternal life. The life was with the Father, and has appeared to us. We proclaim what we've seen, what we've heard so that you too might have fellowship with us. You see, our partnership is with the Father and His Son, Jesus the Christ. We write this to make joy complete, yours and ours.

Yes, this is the message we've heard from Him, and declare to you—God is light. There is no darkness in Him. If we pretend to associate with Him yet walk in darkness, we lie to ourselves and others—we are not living by the truth. BUT, if we walk in the light—just as He is light, we have partnership [κοινωνία] with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His son, purifies us from sin.

If we pretend to ourselves, or others, to be without sin, we not only lie to ourselves, the truth [αληθεια] is simply not within us. **If we recognize and assert openly those thoughts and deeds which distance us from God (i.e., "confess our sin"), God is faithful, God is just; i.e., He will forgive our thoughts & deeds which disgust Him (i.e., "our sins"). He will purify us; He will clean up all our unrighteousness.** Remember, if claim we do not disgust the Lord God, we might as well be calling Him a liar—His word has no place in our lives.

- Q Why is it important, theologically **and** pragmatically, to remember the Word has been "from the beginning?"
- Q Why is John so empirical here about the Christ—as light, as word, as life, as the Son, as truth...?
- Q What is your empirical evidence which you share that demonstrates fellowship with God?
- Q God is spoken of here as light in whom there is no darkness—what is our darkness?
- Q How do we lie about "sin;" i.e., claim we don't do deeds & thoughts which disgust Him?
 - ✓ Why is it problematic to deny these deeds & thoughts?
 - ✓ Why is it useful to do so?

Focus on Verse 9—

- Q Just what is "sin?" **Distance**. Therefore, what is not "sin?"
 Why & when does _____ become "not sin?"
- Q Just what is "if?"
- Q Just what is "confess?" To whom should we recognize & assert openly disgusting deeds & thoughts? Why recognize? Assert openly? What have we done to contaminate "confession?"
- Q Why is the Lord God "faithful to forgive and purify" us?

1 JOHN 1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus [the] Christ. ⁴We write this to make our [some mss. read *your*] joy complete. 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 [some mss. read *every*] sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹**If 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.

Q What should be our attitude about these deeds & thoughts which disgust the Lord God Jehovah?

PSALM 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Q How do you ask the Lord God Yahweh to “search you?” Test you? Know your anxious thoughts?

Q What is this “way everlasting?”

Q What should accompany our recognition & open assertion of these disgusting deeds & thoughts?

PROVERBS 28:13-14

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

Q How do we conceal our sins; i.e., our disgusting deeds & thoughts?

Q How should we “renounce” these disgusting deeds & thoughts?

Q So then, what is the connection between being closer to the Lord God (i.e., blessed) and a “hardened heart?” Just what is this “trouble” we fall into?

Q Why should the Lord God forgive such disgusting thoughts & deeds?

HEBREWS 10:11-14

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he **sat down** at the right hand of God. ¹³Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Q Who is “this priest?” That is, the one who offered the one sacrifice?

Q So, who paid the price to forgive & purify our disgusting deeds & thoughts?

Q Why “one” sacrifice? Why do we find it useful to ignore “one sacrifice?”

Q Are we calling the Lord God a liar with our continuing guilt??

JEREMIAH 31:33-34

This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.

Q Why do we find it useful to continue to feel guilt about our disgusting deeds & thoughts?

“If” God conditions purification based on His condition for purity.

“Sin” Deeds & thoughts which disgust the Lord God; i.e., those deeds & thoughts which distance us from Him.

“Confession” Recognition and open assertion of these disgusting deeds & thoughts.
