

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

May 2016

## *True Christianity*

### INTRODUCTION

What are some of the pros and cons of “testing” people to see if they are Christians? (sheep vs. goats)

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 John 1:5-10

1. False teachers claimed that one can “habitually” sin and still have a relationship with Christ.

What does John say to refute that?

*Note: Light is often referred to as truth (Prov 6:23, 119:105) and purity. Rom 13:12-14; Eph 5:8-14 The gnostic false teachers asserted that light referred to knowledge, but John asserts that it refers also to ethical purity. “Light” and “dark” were common terms (an ethical dualism using these terms is also found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and early Gnosticism). It related to the dualism between good and evil and possibly the gnostic dualism of spirit versus matter. This is one of John’s simple yet profoundly theological assertions about deity.<sup>1</sup> At the transfiguration, when Jesus gave the three apostles a glimpse of His full glory, He manifested Himself as light: “He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light” (Matt. 17:2). Second Corinthians 4:4–6 summarizes well the importance of God as light and its role in a Christian’s life:*

*The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (cf. Matt. 5:14–16; Eph. 5:8–10; Phil. 2:15; Col. 1:12–13; 1 Peter 2:9)<sup>2</sup>*

2. What are two results of “walking in the light?” Vs 7
3. Why does one have to be “sinless” to have fellowship with God? Matt 5:48; Heb 4:15
4. Why do so many people (and churches) deny the reality of sin? Vs. 10; Ecc 7:20
5. What are some of the “extra-Biblical” ways that people deal with their sins?
6. Why does sin break fellowship (but not relationship) with God? Vs 8
7. How does one restore fellowship with God? vs. 9

*Note: But this confession, as it is made to God, must be in sincerity; since the heart cannot speak to God without newness of life, it includes true repentance. God indeed forgives freely, but in such a way that the facility of mercy does not become an enticement to sin.<sup>3</sup>*

8. Why would God restore fellowship with us after we sin? Vs 2:1-2; Mic 7:18-20
9. John first doctrinal test of salvation is belief in God. What is his second? Vv 8, 10

### APPLICATION

How can you make sure that you pass John’s test for salvation?

<sup>1</sup> Utley, R. J. D. (1999). *Vol. Volume 4: The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John*. Study Guide Commentary Series (197). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, J. (2007). *1, 2, 3 John : MacArthur NT Commentary* (23–24). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Calvin, J., & Henry, M. (1998). *1, 2 & 3 John*. The Crossway Classic Commentaries (24). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.