

The Forgiveness of God

Introduction:

1 John was written to Christians near the end of the first century. In the book, John addresses questions about the nature of Jesus; false teaching that denied the humanity of Jesus; and the assurance Christians have through Jesus. When people become Christians, God does not abandon them to their own strength. Forgiveness is not a 1 time occurrence. It is an ongoing process in the Christian life. It is the atoning blood of Jesus that makes all of this possible.

I. Facts in 1 John 1:1-5.

- A. 1:5 – God is totally separated from evil. Absolutely no evil exists in Him.
- B. 1:6 – Christians cannot claim a relationship with God when they pursue a lifestyle of sin.
 - 1. There is a difference:
 - a) In living a life in constant rebellion against God.
 - b) And...falling to temptation through ignorance and weakness.
- C. 1:7 – Christians seek to live as close to God as possible. *It is a condition of heart.*
 - 1. Walking in light will cause us to want to associate with other Christians.
 - 2. We will do what is necessary to conform to God's standards of living.
 - 3. Walking in the light includes:
 - a) living a life of purity & holiness
 - b) walking in the doctrine of Jesus
 - c) involves a commitment to avoid a lifestyle of sin
- D. 1:8 – Christians who claim they have no sin are deceived.
- E. 1:9 – Christians who confess with a sense of regret for committing the sin are promised forgiveness.
 - 1. This is behavior indicative of a heart turned toward God.
 - a) Confession implies regret and a desire to redirect life.
 - 2. 1:9 – *cleanse us from all sin.* There is no sin that God will not forgive.
- F. 1:10 – Christians who claim to have no sin & do not need His forgiveness insult God.

II. The importance of this text.

- A. John emphasizes that Christians must admit they struggle with sin.
 - 1. Cleansed of sin because of God's mercy & forgiveness – not because we are perfect!
- B. We can move with assurance as long as we continue to resist sin in our lives.
 - 1. God has no hesitation to cleanse Christians who admit their spiritual failures.
- C. When people become Christians, God does not abandon us to our own strength.

III. Transforming our Spiritual Perspective:

- A. Too often, the perspective we have is that personal performance/worthiness is the means to justify a relationship with God.
 - 1. Many Christian lives are lived in fear – not faith!
 - a) We do not obey to be saved – we obey because we have been saved!
- B. With too many, salvation boils down to performance ... not relationship!
 - 1. Romans 6:23 – what do we deserve? What do we possess? Salvation!
- C. Romans 8:1-8 – Through Jesus – Christians have been delivered from sin.
 - 1. We **respond** by conforming to the teaching of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. We **respond** by no longer consciously rebelling against God.
- D. 8:16-17a – we can **know** we are children of God.
 - 1. 8:24-25 – hope = confident expectation.
 - 2. 8:31-35 – the Christian who **chooses** to live in God's love cannot be ripped from God's love.
- E. 8:37-39 - At issue is not God's power. At issue is our faith in God's power.

Conclusion:

- A. We can live with confident expectation. Are you? If not, why not?