

The Life of Fellowship

Studies on 1 John

2. Obedience (1)



Leader's notes with answers

Introduction

Have you ever wondered if you can know whether someone is a child of God and truly born again? The Apostle John answers this question in 1 John. If a person really knows God and has fellowship with Him, there will be three characteristics in their lives. The first is that they will obey God's commands. Secondly they will love their brothers and sisters, and thirdly they will have faith in Jesus Christ. These three themes occur all the way through the book and we will look at each one in turn. Let's begin with 'obedience'.

- * Obedience is essential if we are going to have fellowship with God. Why is this so? 1 John 1:5-6
(God is light and we can only have fellowship with Him if we are walking in the light.)

1. CHILDREN OF GOD ARE OBEDIENT 1 John 2:3-11

- * What does obedience to God's commands prove according to 1 John 2:3, 5-6?
(It proves that we know Him and that His love is in us.)
- * One command is highlighted in 1 John 2:7. Why does John only mention this one, and what is it? Also see 1 John 4:21 and John 13:34.
(The command is that we are to love one another in the same way that Jesus loved us. John only mentions this one as all the commandments are summed up in it.)
- * If a person disobeys this command what does it indicate according to 1 John 2:9 and 11?
(It indicates that he is still in the darkness and does not know where he is going.)

2. CHILDREN OF GOD DO NOT CONTINUE TO SIN 1 John 3:4-10

- * In 1 John 3:4 it says, "he who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness". We may classify certain kinds of people as lawless, but what does God mean by this?
(In God's sight any sin is lawlessness. This means we have all been lawless as we have all broken God's laws.)



When you read that no-one who abides in Christ sins, you may feel discouraged because you know you have sinned since becoming a Christian. What does John mean? Discuss

- * What is the wonderful provision that God has made for us? 1 John 2:1
(We can come back to the Lord Jesus at any time as He is our advocate before the Father and will stand on our defense. The blood He shed provides forgiveness for all sin – past, present and future.)

* Why should we NOT go on sinning? There are 4 reasons given in 1 John 3:5-9.

(We should not go on sinning because:

- *Jesus came to take away our sin*
- *Jesus is righteous*
- *Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil*
- *God's nature abides in us*

* If a person continues to go on sinning what does it show? See 1 John 3:6, 8, 10

Conclusion

When a person is truly born again and becomes a child of God, a change takes place in his (or her) heart and he wants to please God. There may be times when we fall, but God has made a wonderful provision for us. Don't allow the enemy to condemn you and whisper in your ear that you can no longer be forgiven. We have someone who speaks to the Father in our defense, and His name is Jesus! Hallelujah.