

# The Life of Fellowship

## Studies on 1 John

### 3. Obedience (2)



#### Introduction

We have seen that three themes occur all the way through the letter of 1<sup>st</sup> John. These are obedience, love and faith. In our last study we looked at obedience, and this study is a continuation of that theme.

#### 1. FREE FROM CONDEMNATION      1 John 3:19-24

In the previous verses John has been speaking about those who continually disobey God's Word and contrasts it with those who are obedient. Although we want to please the Lord and be obedient to him, we may face times when we feel condemned and feel God's commands are a burden.



#### **Discuss**

Have you ever felt condemned? Share your experience if you are able. What do you think John means in 1 John 3:20 when he writes, 'for God is greater than our hearts'? Also see Romans 8:1, 34



#### **Discuss**

Perhaps there are times when we feel God's commands have become a burden. Have you ever felt like that? Why have you felt like that? What does John say about this in 1 John 5:2-3?

God does not want us to condemn ourselves, nor does he want us to listen to the condemnation of the evil one.

- \* What difference does it make in our lives when we learn not to listen to those condemning voices? V21-22
- \* God's desire is for us to be confident before him. What is important if we are going to experience this confidence? V22-24

#### 2. BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

- \* What blessings does John tell us are reserved for those who are obedient to the Lord? See the following verses. 1 John 2:5, 3:22, John 14:23, 15:10, 14.

#### Conclusion

When you love a person, you want to make them happy! That is also true in our relationship with Jesus. If we love Him, we will want to obey him. However there is great blessing for us when we do. As it says in John 14:23, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." There is nothing more wonderful than that!