# Letter of Faith & Assurance #5

***1 John 1:8-10*** *- “Owning Up To Our Sins”*

Introduction: It would be impossible to try and explain who God is and not come to grips with our sin. There can be no fellowship, no relationship with God until we have come to the conclusion that God is Holy and pure and righteous. God is Light and we are not; we are sinners. This letter is primarily to believers. John is trying to make very clear to us (verse 3) that if we as believers are going to have fellowship with God, then we must be aware that fellowship with God awakens us to and creates a sensitivity to sin.

In dealing with new converts, you find that after a period of time that new believers sometimes become frustrated and confused because they feel more sinful now that they did before they got saved. The issue is that God’s light has moved into their life, and now their sin is more evident from this exposure to divine light. They now have a greater awareness of and sensitivity to sin.

John says that if a man says that he has fellowship with He who is Light while that man walks in darkness….He is a liar!

**I. John is answering some false claims.**

 A. “ If we say we have fellowship…” (verse 6)

 1. Someone has told these believers that their lifestyle does not affect their ability to fellowship with God.

 a. Live through the week as I wish…

 b. Justify filling your mind with violence, adultery, profanity and vulgarity.

 c. Take part in things that promote wickedness and call it entertainment.

 2. Just being at church does not mean that you are in fellowship with God.

 a. Sing praises to God, but not really mean a word.

 b. Pretend that everything is fine…

 3. If your lifestyle is walking in darkness, then you are only pretending to have fellowship with God.

 4. Who has had control of your mind lately?

 a. You cannot fill your mind with things of this world and then come and bow before a Holy God.

 b. It makes a difference to God how you live.

 B. “ If we say we have no sin…” (verse 8)

 1. This is a denial of the sin nature.

 a. Denying the presence of sin in a man’s life.

 b. Sin is the transgression of the law.

 1) Sin is stepping over the line of God’s law.

 2) Doing what you want regardless of what God’s says

 3) Whatever is not right is a sin.

 2. We are all guilty of sin.

 a. Thought, action, speech, attitude…

 b. We are too filled with ourselves.

3. Historically, those who have come closest to the Light have been the most ready to confess their sinfulness & the presence of sin.

a. When Isaiah (who by our standards was a good man) had a vision and saw Lord’s train fill the temple and the cherubim and seraphim declaring the Holiness of God, he says “I am a man of unclean lips.”

b. Job was afflicted with the heavy trials, he spends the majority of the book defending himself to his friends, but when God shows up, Job says “I am vile”

 When measured against the glory of God.

 1) Before his friends, he says, “I am innocent”

 2) God says, I am not one of you friends, lets you and I talk about this

 3) Job says, “Whoa, I am vile” and he puts his hand over his mouth and says “what can I say”

 4) In the light of his friends, he thought he was looking pretty good, but in the Light of the perfection of God, he sees his sinfulness.

 c. Peter is on the boat, and recognized the presence and power of the Son of God, and says “Depart, for I am unworthy of thy presence

 d. Paul says that is was “a faithful saying that Jesus came to seek and save sinners of who I am chief.”

 4. What is our response when we are confronted by our sin?

 a. Do we justify our sin and excuse it,

 b. Do we blame someone else for our sin?

 c. Do we look at others life to think better of ourselves?

 d. What is our response when we are confronted by the holiness of God?

 e. We must see God as He is so that we can see ourselves as we are.

 5. Some were teaching these believers that they could be free completely from the sin nature.

 a. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, we become partakers of the divine nature, BUT…

 b. The Adamic nature does not depart from us until Jesus comes and changes us to be like Himself.

 6. If you deny your sin nature, you deceive yourself.

 a. You have not deceived your mate.

 b. You have not deceived other church members.

 c. You have not deceived God.

 7. If you deny the presence of sin, the truth is not even in you.

 a. If the truth was in you, you would come to grips with truth.

 b. The truth is you are a sinner.

 C. “ If we say we have not sinned…” (verse 10)

1. Let the national media, liberal education and humanist and atheist make it sound fancy by calling sin something else.

 2. People offended when someone calls their actions a sin.

 a. People want to call Fornication “Casual Sex”

 b. This world calls Sodomy “An Alternate Lifestyle”

 c. Medical field calls Drunkenness “a disease”

 d. Call Selfishness “Standing for my Rights”

 1) If you think you have rights, you have not gotten past the basics of Christian growth.

 2) Guarding your own will produce frustrated life and that selfishness is sin.

3. When we call sin by a different name we are putting man at the center of things instead of putting God at the center.

 a. We say it is just different, but still good.

 b. That is a lie, and we make God a liar.

 4. I have had to counsel with Sodomites, Adulterers, Addicts, etc.

 a. Gone through God’s Word and directed them toward truth.

 b. Prayed with them and cried with them.

 5. You do not tell a person who has cancer not to worry.

 a. You give them the proper treatment to help them fight against the cancer.

 b. It is not radical or extreme to be honest with them.

 6. These sins are enemies who war against the soul.

 b. You will not help a person who is in the grips of sin if you call their sin something besides what God calls it.

**Conclusion**: To deny that sin is what God says it is, you make Him a liar. We just say that God did not tell the truth. If we say we can be selfish, be a drunkard, live an alternate lifestyle, commit fornication and it is not SIN. “I can do what God says is wrong and for me it is not a sin.” *We are saying we know more than God, God is a Liar!*

All you really prove is that His word is not in you, because if His Word was in you, you would be agreeing with God!

If we confess our sins!!!!!! He is Faithful!!! He is JUST!!! He Forgives!!

Just Agree with God…..God says it is SIN, so quit justifying it.

When you agree with God, you are confessing it!!

To do something to someone that is hurtful or costly and then to say to them, “if I have done anything to offend you, would you please forgive me.” That is not really sincere.

People live in sin during the week and then ask God to forgive them if they have done anything wrong. God wants us to CONFESS! It will take a little more specific and not generalized.

We should be specific and confess what God calls sin TO BE SIN!!

An immoral person needs forgiveness and so does a person who has spoken a hateful word to another. A murderer needs forgiveness and so does a person who cuts someone else up with their tongue. A person who has lived a wicked lifestyle needs forgiveness and so does a person with bitterness in their heart and refuses to get it right.

*ALL sin must be dealt with the same way…*

*ALL SIN affects our fellowship with God!*

If we CONFESS our sins, HE is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness!!!

YES, we are sinners, but God has made provision for our sin!!