The Grounds of Fellowship

I John 1:5-7

Introduction:

1. The Message Concerning Fellowship – 3:5
   1. The Source of the Message

It is Not from John - John is not inspired!

It is from Jesus –

He came to reveal the Father

John 1:18

“No one has seen God…”

Hebrews 1:3

“He is the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person”

John 14:9

“If you have seen me you have seen the Father”

* 1. The Urgency of the Message

Many heretics were saying that they had fellowship with God. They didn’t believe:

The deity of Christ

The holiness of God

The reality of sin

They were living in sin and saying they had fellowship with God.

Unless a Christian knows the right thing, He’ll fall for anything.

So, they needed this message.

* 1. The Content of the Message
     1. God is Light

Let there be light - Genesis 1

Job, “Do you know the path of the light.” No of course not!

Man can’t know the light, but he can know the One Who is light.

2. No Darkness is in Him

A Double negative –

In English it means a positive.

In Greek the second negative makes the negative stronger.

John 10:28

“I give to them eternal life and they shall never perish.

Hebrews 13:5

“… I will never leave you or forsake you” - 5 negatives

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“How firm a foundation”

The soul that on Jesus

Shall lean for repose …

So, He is saying that there is not one little bit of darkness in God.

The heretics were saying that god has some evil in Him, so He will excuse evil in Christians.

Why would they think that?

1. Maybe simply to excuse their sin.
2. If from heathen background, all of their gods had evil in them - Diana of the Ephesians (Acts 20)
3. If from Jewish background,

Isa. 45:7 - “I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create evil (calamity)”. Hebrew ra = evil.

1. Maybe John wanted to make sure that his readers were clear on this point.
2. The Meaning of the Message of Fellowship – 3:6
   1. What we say – Fellowship with God

“We” includes the writer, the apostle John.

In verse 5 it is only the apostles

Then he adds a “you”

So in verse 6 it is the apostle and his readers.

He is not using “we” as a third person, someone.

It is possible for the apostles and/or the readers to say this.

There is nothing wrong with saying this. But…

* 1. What We do – Walk In Darkness

If at the same time we are walking in darkness. That cannot be.

“Walking in darkness” is to move into a moral and spiritual sphere from which God is absent.

He is walking in a realm of evil, while God remains in the realm of holiness.

* 1. What We Are – Liars

That statement is patently false.

What do we call someone who tells a lie?

That’s right – a liar.

He does not have fellowship with a holy God.

He is saying something that is inconsistent with the truth about God. He is holy.

Notice: He did not say relationship, He said fellowship.

1. The Means of Fellowship – 7
   1. Walking in the Light

Walking in the realm where God is.

Not walking according to the light –

That’s impossible – perfection.

How do I walk in the light?

What is fellowship? Sharing things in common –

Humans share: time, experiences, or property.

With God we share the light.

If I walk into a lighted room, I experience the light.

I walk around in the Light.

So, how do I walk in the light?

By being open to God in prayer.

By being open to God in His Word.

* 1. Fellowshipping in the light

We have fellowship with one another. Not fellowship between two believers, but fellowship between me and God.

* 1. Cleansing by the Light

But, God is still holy and I am still a sinner.

While I am walking in the light my sin is exposed, I confess it and He cleanses me.

If I wear a white coat into a dark room, I can’t see that it is dirty.

But if I walk into a lighted room, I see the dirt and admitting that it is dirty is the first step to getting it clean (1 John 1:9).

But the Christian has already been forgiven?

Conclusion: