

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **February 5, 2017** sermon, "The Faithful One." Please read the sermon passage (1 John 1:5-10) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

NOTE . . .

1. **The false claims people make.** (8, 10)
  - a. "We have no sin." This is humanism: "People are good."
    - i. Sin means, "to miss the mark." Some say that we have not missed the mark.
    - ii. Some want to try to deal with sin in a variety of man-made ways:
      1. Denial of reality ("We have no sin.")
      2. Fantasy (Preoccupation with the meaningless.)
      3. Isolationism (Withdraw from any who might make me face the truth.)
      4. Regression (Return to an old way of thinking that is 'not as bad.')
      5. Displaced anger (Not sure why I am always mad at the world.)
      6. Rationalism (I am not as bad as I could be, and better than many.)
    - iii. But it is God who sets the standards. He says that all have missed the mark.
  - b. "We have not sinned." This is perfectionism: "People can be morally perfect."
    - i. If we make this claim we are deceived, and we are actually calling God a liar.
    - ii. If we make this claim, it is evident that have twisted and denied God's Word.
2. **The cleansing that all people need.** (9)
  - a. Confess: "To say the same thing about our sin that God says, repenting from our sin. "Confess" conveys an ongoing action: "I live a life of saying what God says about sin."
  - b. When your sin is exposed in the light, you will either run from God or to God.
  - c. He is faithful: continually holding to his Word and himself.
  - d. He is just: he himself has seen to it that sin is punished, in Jesus Christ.
    - i. He forgives sin (this addresses the legal guilt of sin).
    - ii. He cleanses us (this addresses our need for healing).

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: All people have missed the mark that God has established. When did you realize that you were a sinner? How did God help you realize that you have missed the mark?
2. Based on #1, above: What man-made ways of dealing with sin are you most prone to?
3. Based on #1, above: John uses some harsh language when he says that those who might have the least detectable sin, who are prone to say, "I don't have any sin," actually "make God a liar." Why do you think he was so harsh with those who may be the most visibly morally upright?
4. Based on #2, above: "Confessing" is an ongoing lifestyle (we live continually turning from our own mindsets), and God's "cleansing" is an ongoing work of his healing. Discuss. How have you made progress in these ongoing processes in the past 5 years? 1 year? 6 months?