**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | A Formula for Fellowship |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 John 1:3-10 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1731 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Christians can slip and fall into sin.
      1. A true child of God will fear sin.
      2. A true child of God, though he may slip and fall, has a desire for a quick recovery.
   2. 1 John 1:3-10
      1. The way to have fullness of joy is to have fellowship with God and with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
      2. The formula for fellowship is a cleansed life.
   3. Sin is what causes the devastation in this world.
   4. How do we deal specifically with sin?
      1. We must understand that sin is sin.
         1. God only forgives sin; He doesn’t forgive mistakes.
            1. This is not to say that God judges us for our mistakes.
            2. But if we call our sins “mistakes,” then we’ll never deal with our sins.
         2. We need to call sin what it is: sin.
            1. The evolutionist believes that life is a result of blind force (that it all just happened) and that sin is just an incident or accident; it’s a stumble upward as man is progressing.

However, we are not progressing.

Man started out made in the image of God in perfection.

It is sin that has ruined the human race.

* + 1. Our fellowship with God will be hindered:
       1. If we don’t understand sin for what it is, which is an affront to a holy God.
       2. If we call sin by some other name, such as a misjudgment, a malfunction, a mistake or a sickness.
       3. If we say that man is ill but not evil.
       4. If we say that man is weak, not wicked.
       5. If we say that man is sick but not sinful.
          1. If we say any of these things, then we’re not dealing with sin as we ought and will not have fellowship with God.
  1. The problem with today’s society is that we all have a burden of guilt without a sense of sin.
     1. We don’t see ourselves as sinners needing to be forgiven; instead, we see ourselves as people who make mistakes who need to be fixed.
        1. So, we try to fix ourselves and somehow compensate for the problem, or commiserate with it, without getting cleansed and without getting forgiven.
  2. The world has different ideas on how to handle the sin problem.
     1. The evolutionist believes that man is on his way upward, and time will take care of it all.
        1. The problem is that the longer society goes on, the deeper we sink.
        2. The evolutionist never sees sin for what it is.
     2. The educator believes that education is going to handle the sin problem.
        1. If this were true, then the people with the most knowledge would be the least sinful.
           1. Nazi Germany had one of the highest educational levels in the world when Hitler came to power.
     3. Science tells us that man’s problems are defective genes, and we could solve the sin problem by genetic engineering.
        1. However, those who are the most gifted, the most handsome, the strongest and the most intelligent still have a sin problem.
     4. The sociologist tells us that the sin problem is environmental.
        1. If this were true, then why haven’t those in the best environments dealt with the sin problem?
     5. The psychologist and the psychiatrist do their best to remove the guilt feeling, but they cannot remove the guilt.
        1. Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to the sin problem.
  3. Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God forgives, cleanses and forgets our sin.
     1. Hebrews 8:12
     2. Isaiah 43:25
     3. If you are saved, God has forgotten your sins; it is buried, gone and forgiven.
        1. This doesn’t mean that God forgets intellectually.
           1. God could never learn anything or forget anything because He knows everything, and nothing escapes His knowledge.

If He could forget intellectually, then this would mean that He would change; and the Bible says that God does not change.

Hebrews 13:8

* + - 1. God does not remember them as sins but as forgiven sins.
         1. What God has forgotten as a sin, we can forget as a sin.
    1. Isaiah 1:18
    2. When we are saved, our sins (past, present and future) are buried in the grave of God’s forgetfulness.
    3. Romans 4:8
       1. As a Christian, there is never a time when God will ever mark any sin to your account.
  1. 1 John 1:6-7
     1. The child of God knows God in two ways:
        1. Sonship
           1. Sonship is the relationship we have when we’re born again.
           2. When we’re born into the family of God, we become sons and daughters of God.
           3. It is settled; when we are born into God’s family, we can never be unborn.
           4. Sonship is once for all.
        2. Fellowship
           1. If we disobey our Heavenly Father, fellowship changes.
           2. Hebrews 12:11

God, like a loving Father, chastens those whom He has received.

* + - * 1. Sonship is fixed by birth; fellowship is determined by whether or not we are obeying the Father’s instructions.
    1. If we are truly saved, our sin will never be brought up against us in order to condemn us; but our sin can interrupt fellowship with the Father.
       1. 1 John 1:7
       2. It’s one thing to have sonship; it’s another thing to have fellowship.
  1. There are some things we will see in 1 John that we must learn if we want to get in fellowship and stay in fellowship with God our Father.

1. sin must be exposed to the light (1 John 1:6-10)
   1. When a child of God gets sin in his or her heart, they will oftentimes begin to lie to other people.
      1. 1 John 1:6
      2. Someone who has truly been saved has had his sins forgiven, but he lets some sin get in his heart and life.
         1. He then begins to lie to others because he does not confess what’s in his heart.
         2. He knows that his heart is not right with God, but he doesn’t want others to know about it.
            1. So, he acts as if everything is fine.
      3. 1 John 1:8
         1. If we tell that lie long enough, then we’re going to begin to believe it.
         2. If we make allowance for our sin, we deceive ourselves.
      4. 1 John 1:10
         1. We end up lying to God.
         2. The Holy Spirit tells us that it is sin, and we say that it’s not sin; in doing so, we are calling God a liar.
      5. We try to hide our sin.
         1. One of the most dangerous things we can do is to conceal our sin.
         2. We say to others and to God that there is no sin in our lives.
   2. We need to expose sin to the light, not in order to condemn ourselves, but in order to have fellowship with God and with one another.
      1. 1 John 1:7
      2. Light reveals what is wrong.
      3. If we want to know whether there is any sin in our hearts, expose it to the light.
         1. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart.
            1. Psalm 139:23-24
            2. The Holy Spirit will convict you of any sin that’s in your heart and life today.
   3. The Holy Spirit of God convicts us of sin; the devil accuses us of sin.
   4. What is the difference between Holy Spirit conviction and Satan’s accusation? How does the Holy Spirit convict us of sin?
      1. The Holy Spirit will convict us legitimately.
         1. The Holy Spirit will convict us of the sin that has come into our lives that has not yet been confessed and cleansed.
         2. The devil will accuse us illegitimately.
            1. He will bring up that which has already been cleansed and forgiven.

1 John 1:9

* + - * 1. Revelation 12:10

The devil is called the accuser of the brethren.

* + - * 1. The devil will lead you into sin and then accuse you for committing that sin.
    1. The Holy Spirit will convict us specifically.
       1. If the devil cannot accuse us of some sin that’s already been forgiven, then he will accuse us generally.
          1. He will just tell us that we’re no good and unworthy.

Our sin nature is under the blood of Jesus Christ, and we have now become partakers of the divine nature; but the devil does not want us to understand that.

* + - * 1. He will try to make us feel badly all over.
      1. The Holy Spirit is like a skilled physician; He puts his finger on the sore spot and pushes.
         1. That is where the sin is.
         2. The Holy Spirit will call the sin by name.

We should never try to deal with sin generally by saying, “Lord, I’ve sinned; forgive me.”

Be specific when confessing sin.

We’re forgiven when we name the sin specifically.

* + - 1. The Holy Spirit will tell us exactly what the sin is.
    1. The Holy Spirit will convict us redemptively.
       1. The Holy Spirit convicts us so that we will confess and come to fellowship.
          1. God wants us to have fellowship with Him.
          2. When God deals with us as His children, He’s not trying to get even with us; He is trying to restore us to fellowship.
       2. The devil accuses us destructively.
          1. The Holy Spirit wants to draw us to confession and forgiveness and fellowship.
          2. The devil wants to drive us to accusation and despair and away from God.

1. sin must be expressed to the lord (1 john 1:9)
   1. We must confess our sin.
      1. The word confess in this passage means “to say the same thing.”
      2. A confession of sin is not just an admission of sin; it is an agreement with God about that sin.
         1. We say about that sin what God says about that sin.
      3. To confess sin means to name it and to agree with God.
   2. How do we confess sin?
      1. We must do it immediately.
         1. The word “confess” in 1 John 1:9 is in the present tense.
         2. Don’t wait until the end of the day to confess all your sins.
         3. The Spirit-filled life is not a life where we can never sin.
            1. 1 John 1:8
            2. It is a life of confession of sin; agreeing with God.
      2. Do it specifically.
         1. If the Holy Spirit of God convicts specifically, then we confess specifically.
            1. Don’t just say, “Lord, forgive my sins.”
         2. 1 John 1:9
         3. Call it by name.
      3. Do it confidently.
         1. 1 John 1:9
         2. For those sins, Jesus died.
         3. We can be totally cleansed; and it will be gone, never to be brought up against us anymore.
         4. Acts 10:15
2. CONCLUSION
   1. When we’re clean, we have fellowship with God and with one another.
   2. There is nothing like being clean and right with God.
   3. Are you clean and right with God?
      1. You first must be saved; you must be born again.
         1. John 3:7
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16