

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Things That Hinder Fellowship

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 John 1:5 – 2:6

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2101

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Today's message will take a look at those things that hinder fellowship.
  - i) We can let things come into our lives that will defraud us of the fellowship that is our heritage in the Lord Jesus.
  - ii) We need to evaluate ourselves to see if there is anything in our hearts and lives that is keeping us from having the sweetest fellowship this side of Heaven.
    - (1) If there is, it is most likely sin.
    - (2) Secret faults cause moral earthquakes.
      - (a) Secret faults are things that we hide and disguise that keep us from fellowship with God.
- b) 1 John 1:5 - 2:6
- c) The Bible is the only book that has the answer to the problem of sin.
  - i) The way to deal with sin is to recognize it for what it is.
  - ii) We have a generation today that doesn't even like the word "sin."
    - (1) It seems that the only sin today is to call sin "sin."
    - (2) We call sin a mistake or a misjudgment.
      - (a) But Jesus did not die for errors, mistakes, or for misjudgments; Jesus died for sin.
- d) We live in a day of behavioristic psychology.
  - i) Psychologists say that we are the sum total of our genes, chromosomes and environment.
    - (1) They say that man is not wicked, he is weak.
    - (2) Man is not sinful, he is sick.
    - (3) Man is not evil, he is ill.
  - ii) Therefore, we never really deal with the root of the problem.
  - iii) We have been taught that man was not created, but that he evolved.
    - (1) But man did not evolve.
    - (2) We have been created in the image of God, and man sinned willfully.
      - (a) Genesis 1:27
- e) Sin is not an accident or an incident; it is high treason against God.
  - i) If we don't understand sin for what it is, then we will never deal with sin.
- f) God has provided the remedy for sin.
  - i) If we think that sin is merely a problem to be fixed, then we will be looking for a cure rather than forgiveness and cleansing.
    - (1) We will try to compensate for sin or commiserate with sin.
  - ii) The book of 1 John tells us how to deal with the sin problem and how to have fellowship with God.
- g) Many people have lost the concept of sin today.
  - i) The evolutionist says that given time, we will progress onward.
  - ii) Education says that if we get more learning, then we'll be able to deal with the sin problem.
    - (1) However, Nazi Germany was highly educated.

- (2) Many of our universities today have become cesspools of sin and higher learning at the same time.
- iii) Science says that perhaps through genetic engineering, we can breed sin out of man and create a different race.
- iv) The sociologist says that man will be better if we just change the environment.
  - (1) If this were true, then we would expect those who live in the best environment to not be bothered with sin.
  - (2) But sin is no respecter of environment.
    - (a) Man fell in the Garden of Eden, and there is no better environment than that.
- v) The psychologist and psychiatrist say that these are just feelings that we have generated within ourselves, and we need to get rid of the guilt feelings.
  - (1) No, we need to get rid of the guilt that causes the feeling.
- h) The only book that has the answer to the sin problem is God's Word.
- i) When we repent of our sins and receive Jesus by faith as our personal Lord and Savior and trust Him, we are born again.
  - i) As a result, sin is judicially and legally dealt with forever.
  - ii) Hebrews 8:12
    - (1) When we get saved, every sin (past, present, future) is buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness.
  - iii) Isaiah 43:25
    - (1) That is the Gospel of grace.
  - iv) Jeremiah 31:34
  - v) Isaiah 1:18
  - vi) When God says that He will remember our iniquities no more, this does not mean that He cannot recall them.
    - (1) This does not refer to an intellectual remembrance.
    - (2) God says, "I will remember their sins against us them no more."
    - (3) God remembers our sins, but He remembers them as sins that have been forgiven and, therefore, as forgotten sins.
      - (a) Similarly, we can never forget intellectually the sin that we committed; but as Christians, we don't remember that sin as a sin held against us but as a sin forgiven and forgotten by the grace of God.
  - vii) Romans 4:8
    - (1) If God were to put one-half of one sin on our judicial record, then that would be enough to condemn us and doom us forever.
      - (a) We cannot behave our way into Heaven.
      - (b) We must be saved by the grace of God.
  - j) How does God deal with our sins day by day?
    - i) If we are saved by God's grace and our sins are buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness, then He deals with us not as judge but as Father.

- ii) We have two vital relationships as Christians:
    - (1) Sonship
      - (a) When we're born into the family of God, sonship is established and will never change.
        - (i) Once you're born into the family of God, you are in the family of God.
    - (2) Fellowship
      - (a) This relationship can change.
      - (b) In 1 John, John is not talking about sonship but about fellowship.
      - (c) Disobedience affects the fellowship we have with our heavenly Father, just as disobedience can sometimes rupture the fellowship between a child and his earthly parents.
      - (d) Hebrews 12:6
      - (e) Sonship is established by birth, and fellowship is established by conduct.
  - k) In 1 John, John shares how God deals with us, not as judge but as Father.
    - i) 1 John 1:3
      - (1) This is not referring to judicial or legal forgiveness, but parental forgiveness.
    - ii) Matthew 6:12
      - (1) This is a family prayer.
  - l) Today's message will share how we can get rid of those secret faults and hidden sins and restore our fellowship with the Father.
- 2) THE CONVICTION OF SIN (1 JOHN 1:5-10)
- a) 1 John 1:5-7
  - b) In each of the following verses, John states, "If we say:"
    - i) 1 John 1:6
    - ii) 1 John 1:8
    - iii) 1 John 1:10
    - iv) What John is sharing in these passages is that we are saying one thing and doing another; we are pretending.
  - c) Following each of the above "If we say" statements, we see the evolution of a lie in these three steps:
    - i) We lie to deny sin.
      - (1) 1 John 1:5-6
      - (2) There are people in our churches who are just playing a game.
      - (3) We get sin in our hearts (it may be big or small), and then we go to church and teach a Sunday school class or sing in the choir with that secret fault in our hearts.
    - ii) We deceive ourselves and others.
      - (1) We begin believing our own lies.
      - (2) 1 John 1:8

- (3) When we set out to deceive someone else, we deceive ourselves most of all.
- (4) When we blur the distinction between the truth and the lie and we continue to sing in the choir or teach Sunday school and nothing seems to happen, we then begin to smooth over our sin.
- iii) We defy the Savior.
  - (1) We deceive others, then we deceive ourselves, and then, finally, we lie to God.
  - (2) 1 John 1:10
  - (3) When we call God a liar, we are the ones who are lying.
    - (a) God cannot lie.
  - (4) God brings us under conviction, but we excuse the sin as a mistake or an error.
    - (a) We blame it on the environment or claim that it was righteous indignation, etc.
    - (b) We don't let the Holy Spirit convict us of that sin.
    - (c) We lie to deny sin, we lie to deceive self, and we lie to defy the Savior.
      - (i) When we do this, fellowship is completely broken.
- d) God will not bring us back into fellowship unless we expose ourselves to the light.
  - i) If we stay in the darkness, there will never be any conviction.
  - ii) If we will step back into the light, then God will shine His light of holiness upon our lives and will bring us under conviction.
- e) As a child of God, it is very important that we learn the difference between Holy Spirit conviction and satanic accusation.
  - i) The devil is the accuser of the brethren.
    - (1) Revelation 12:10
  - ii) The Holy Spirit loves us and convicts us.
  - iii) The devil will entice you to sin and then condemn you because you did.
- f) How will the Holy Spirit convict us of sin?
  - i) The Holy Spirit convicts legitimately.
    - (1) He will never convict us of any sin that has been confessed and cleansed.
      - (a) If it comes up again, that is not the Holy Spirit doing that; it is the devil going into your past, digging up things that have been cleansed and forgotten.
      - (b) Confess your sin once, and then praise God for His forgiveness.
    - (2) The devil will try to accuse us of sins that are already forgiven and cleansed.
    - (3) The Holy Spirit will never go back into our past and deal with something that has already been dealt with.
  - ii) The Holy Spirit of God convicts specifically.

- (1) If the devil cannot go into our past and convict us of something that has already been dealt with, then he will convict us vaguely and try to make us feel unworthy and of no good.
    - (a) As Christians, we are not unworthy sinners; we are the righteousness of God in Christ.
      - (i) Jesus is not ashamed to call us his brethren.
        - 1. Hebrews 2:11
  - (2) When we commit a sin and it has not been cleansed, the Holy Spirit will put His finger on that specific sore spot and push.
    - (a) He will convict us of that specific lie or that specific time when we were rude to that person.
  - iii) The Holy Spirit convicts redemptively.
    - (1) Accusation discourages and drives us away from God.
    - (2) Holy Spirit conviction tells us what we have done, but that God will forgive us and cleanse us if we will come to Jesus.
      - (a) He invites us back into that fellowship.
      - (b) We don't have to take the accusations from the devil.
- 3) THE CLEANSING OF SIN (1 JOHN 1:9)
- a) This is not the judicial cleansing that we got when we were saved.
  - b) This is talking about fellowship with God.
    - i) This is God dealing with us as children.
  - c) The Greek word "confess" in this verse literally means "to say the same."
    - i) A confession of sin is an agreement with God.
    - ii) It is saying with God what God says about that sin.
      - (1) It is not merely admitting that we sinned.
      - (2) We get off the side of our sin, and we go over to God's side.
  - d) How do we confess sin?
    - i) Confess sin immediately.
      - (1) 1 John 1:9
        - (a) "If we confess our sin" in the Greek language is in the present tense.
          - (i) It is not talking about something that we have done but something that we do.
        - (2) Confession is to be a habit of our lives.
          - (a) We don't just confess our sins at the end of the day.
        - (3) We need to be sensitive to sin.
        - (4) The Spirit-filled life is not a roller coaster of ups and downs.
        - (5) The victorious, Spirit-filled life is not living without any temptation, fault or failure; we all sin.
        - (6) The victorious, Spirit-filled life is learning these truths and confessing sin the moment the Holy Spirit convicts us of that sin.
          - (a) When we walk in the light, the moment we sin, the Holy Spirit tells us that we did wrong.
          - (b) At that moment, we confess that sin.

- ii) Confess sin specifically.
    - (1) 1 John 1:9
      - (a) We are to confess our sins, plural.
      - (b) This passage is not talking about the sin nature or the whole body of sin, but it is speaking about what we did specifically.
    - (2) Call the sin by name.
  - iii) Confess sin confidently.
    - (1) 1 John 1:9
      - (a) God is faithful and just.
      - (b) He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness, not some.
    - (2) There is no sin that the blood of Jesus Christ cannot cleanse.
      - (a) 1 John 1:7
      - (b) 1 John 1:9
        - (i) Not only does He forgive, He also cleanses.
        - (ii) He washes out the stain.
- 4) THE CONQUEST OF SIN (1 JOHN 2:1)
- a) God is not encouraging us to sin because of His cleansing and forgiveness; He is encouraging us not to sin.
  - b) 1 John 2:1
    - i) The word “advocate” here is another word for “lawyer.”
  - c) We have a Savior who is interceding for us.
    - i) Hebrews 7:25
  - d) 1 John 2:2
    - i) Jesus died for everybody.
    - ii) “Propitiation for our sins” means that Jesus is the satisfaction for our sins.
      - (1) He satisfies the demands of a righteous and a holy God.
        - (a) This is why 1 John 1:9 says that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.
  - e) 1 John 2:5
    - i) When we keep His word, the love of God is perfected in us.
      - (1) A slave serves because He has to.
      - (2) An employee serves because he needs to.
      - (3) A child of God serves because He wants to.
  - f) That God would save us to begin with and then cleanse us does not encourage us to sin.
    - i) The desire of our heart should be to never sin again.
  - g) We have a wonderful Savior.
    - i) 1 John 1:4
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) You can have forgiveness for your sins today.
    - i) God will forgive you of your sins, never to bring them against you.
  - b) You can become a child of God by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ.

- c) Pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life and forgive you of your sins.
- d) 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.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16