

# **IF**

(Scripture: 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:6-10)

## **Introduction:**

1. There are various ways to study John's Letters.
  - a. One can look at the word "love".
  - b. One can look at the concept of "born of God".
  - c. One can go verse by verse.
  
2. But we are going to look at the word "if" today.
  
3. "If" is a big word.
  - a. If he would have stayed home, he would still be alive.
  - b. If I would have taken that job, I would be president of the company by now.
  - c. If I would have bought Microsoft stock when the company first got started, I would be rich.
  
4. Apostle John makes a lot of good points with the 2-letter word "if".
  
5. Now let us take a closer look at the word "IF" as used by the Apostle John in our scripture reading.

## **I. The Fatal "IF"**

- A. 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:6 *"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth."*
  
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14 *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"*

C. Ephesians 5:11 *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”*

D. There many Christians today who are trying to live like the world and be in Christ at the same time.

E. In the world, but not of the world.

F. Cannot mix water & oil, so is love for Christ & pleasures of this life.

## **II. The Assuring “IF”**

A. 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:7 *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

B. Substitute truth for light and you have the same thing.  
God is both truth and light.

C. The blood of Christ keeps on cleansing us.  
As long we are in the light or in Christ.  
This is the case until we change masters.

D. “Walk” means keep on walking (living).  
Be faithful!

E. Revelation 2:10 *“Be ye faithful unto the end, and I will give you the crown of life”*

## **III. The Deceiving “IF”**

A. 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:8 *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”*

B. Ways people deceive themselves:

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9 *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.”*

2. 1 Corinthians 15:33 *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”*

3. Galatians 6:7 *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”*

C. We deceive ourselves when:

1. We believe truth is not absolute and attainable.

2. We try to change God’s laws to fit our situation. (marriage, divorce, remarriage; anger, drinking, stealing, gossip, “white lies”).

#### **IV. The Blessed “IF”**

A. 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”*

B. “Confess” means to admit, own up to.

C. If we refuse to admit or confess our sins, then God cannot forgive.

D. A good example of admitting that he is a sinner:

Luke 18:10-14 *“<sup>10</sup>Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.*

*<sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*

*<sup>12</sup>I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*

*<sup>13</sup>And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*

*<sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*”

## **V. The Insulting “IF”**

A. 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:10 *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*

B. God cannot lie:

Titus 1:2 *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”*

C. Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

D. Ecclesiastes 7:20 *“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”*

E. Remember, sin is not only committing but also omission:

1. James 4:17 *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”*

## **Conclusion:**

John 14:15 (The Loving “IF”)

*“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”*

John 15:14 (The Obedient “IF”)

*“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”*