

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of October 29, 2023 A.D.

Pursuing the Truth! It Is the Foundation of Your Relationship with Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Let's talk about that in this study.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 1 John 1:5-7

1. What does John literally mean when John says, "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all"? Please describe the image which appears in your mind when you envision "God is light." Please describe your thoughts and your emotions in response to that image.
2. Why did God give to humans the capacity to experience and to express emotions? Does God have emotions? If not, why not? If so, please describe if and/or how God expresses his emotions to and with humans?
3. In verses 5-7, John announces that John has a message from God. Please explain the meaning and the importance of that message when it is applied to your personal relationship with God.
4. Refer to the verses at 1 John 1:3, 4, and 6. What is fellowship? How important is "fellowship" in: (a) the daily lives of the people of any given culture or society? and (b) your life? In your answers, please explain the benefits of having fellowship with other people and the negative effects of not having fellowship with other people.
5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "In heaven, everybody will enjoy and experience perfect unity and fellowship with one another. In hell, there will not be any unity or fellowship with anybody."
6. Refer to verse 6. What does it mean to "walk in the darkness"? Do the majority of the people whom you know "walk in the darkness"? Is walking in darkness a personal choice? If so, why do the people who walk in the darkness choose to do so?

7. What is "truth"? What is the (a) value (b) benefit and/or (c) importance of learning, knowing, speaking, and obeying the truth in the lives and relationships of the people of any nation or society?
8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Truth is an objective standard by which all of reality is to be measured."
9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Truth is God's point of view on any subject."
10. Refer to verses 5 and 7. Do the followers of Christ have an obligation to seek and to create opportunities to "have fellowship with one another"? What are the effects upon the church and upon the kingdom of darkness when Christ followers fail to deliberately experience and enjoy planned fellowship with one another? In your opinion, (a) how often should this fellowship occur? and (b) what should the nature of that fellowship include?
11. Please discuss the relationship between, and the importance of, the verses which are found at 1 John 1:7 and at Romans 6:4

Read 1 John 1:6, 8-10

12. How important is "truth" to God? How important is "truth" to you? Would God agree with your answers to those two questions?

Consider: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit live in perfect fellowship with One another. Christ is alive within you. Christ is alive within each of the believers within our church family. Are those statements true? Then, let us ask ourselves: "Are we walking in the light as Jesus is in the light? Are we persistently pursuing and enjoying regular fellowship with one another? Are we living like people who have been purified from all sin by the blood of Jesus?" You think about that. Amen.