

Getting Started

- ❖ About what do we tend to deceive ourselves?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. Living authentically begins by knowing and delighting in God as He reveals Himself. (vs.5)
2. Living authentically with God leads to living in authentic Biblical community. (6-7)
3. How we respond to our sin either promotes or hinders the authentic life. (8-10)
4. Resting in the atoning work of Jesus emboldens us to live authentically. (2:1-2)

Takeaway Truth

Resting in the atoning work of Jesus emboldens us to live authentically.

Digging Deeper (Read the sermon text and discuss the following questions.)

- ❖ What message did John hear and declare? What is the significance of that message? What does it teach you about God?
- ❖ What false teachings was John addressing in these verses? (Hint: the phrase “if we say” is summarizing the belief of those causing problems.)
- ❖ These schismatics were early forerunners of two heresies that plagued the church in the 2nd century--- Gnosticism and Docetism. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with these two heresies.
- ❖ How is our common understanding of the word “fellowship” both different and the same as the biblical meaning of the word? (Note: Jerry spent a couple of minutes in the message defining this word which is “koinonia” in the original Greek.)
- ❖ In verse 9, what does the word “confess” mean? What should confession of sin look like in our lives?
- ❖ What do verses 2:1-2 tell us about Jesus? Why are these verses important to our understanding of the gospel?

Apply It!

- ❖ How do we deceive ourselves about sin?
- ❖ Confession of sin has both private and public aspects to it. Is your small group at a point where sin struggles can be brought out into the group or in a portion of the group? If not, what would it take to get your group to this point? Do you think this is an important aspect of living authentically within biblical community?
- ❖ How can we walk in the light?

Think About It!

Koinonia is a Greek word that occurs 20 times in the Bible. Koinonia's primary meaning is "fellowship, sharing in common, communion." The first occurrence of koinonia is Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Christian fellowship is a key aspect of the Christian life. Believers in Christ are to come together in love, faith, and encouragement. That is the essence of koinonia.

Philippians 2:1-2 declares, "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." Koinonia is being in agreement with one another, being united in purpose, and serving alongside each other. Our koinonia with each other is based on our common koinonia with Jesus Christ. First John 1:6-7 says, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

A powerful example of what koinonia should look like can be found in a study of the phrase "one another" in the Bible. Scripture commands us to be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10), honor one another (Romans 12:10), live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8), accept one another (Romans 15:7), serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13), be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32), admonish one another (Colossians 3:16), encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13), spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24), offer hospitality (1 Peter 4:9), and love one another (1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11; 3:23; 4:7; 4:11-12). That is what true biblical koinonia should look like. (from gotquestions.org)