



## Discussion & Application:

1. The word “**fellowship**” refers to partnership or sharing. To have fellowship with someone means to share your life with them and partner in what they are doing in the world. What are the primary things God desires to do in the world? How specifically are you partnering with Him to accomplish His purposes? How is this seen in your time, talents, and treasures?
2. **1 John 1:8** says, “If we say we have no sin,” while **1 John 1:10** says, “If we say that we have not sinned.” Is that redundant? If there is a difference between the two statements, what is it? Why are both important in differentiating false Christians from true Christians?
3. How would you define the terms “**Original Sin**,” and “**Total Depravity**”? Does the Bible support these concepts? List references. Why don’t people want to admit that they have a problem with sin?
4. What does the word “**confession**” (Greek homologéō) mean? With your definition in mind, what does it mean to “confess our sins” (v. 9) and confess “that we have sinned” (v. 10)? How does failure to do this demonstrate that people are deceiving themselves and that the truth is not in them? How does failure to do this reveal that we are calling God a liar and His word is not in us?
5. What is the “**conscience**”? What is the role of the conscience in addressing sin? How is it possible for a person’s conscience not to bother them when they sin? When a person’s conscience is rightfully bothering them, what are some ways they might justify or rationalize their behavior and ignore their conscience? What are some common excuses for sinning in our culture (and in some churches) today? What are some socially acceptable sins?
6. Why is confession of sin essential to genuine salvation? How does confession of sin(s) reveal that a professing Christian is truly walking in the Light and has genuine fellowship with God?
7. What other passages of Scripture help us better understand and/or illustrate confession of sin? (See the following to get started: Joshua 7 – especially vv. 19-21; Ps. 32; 51). What are the negative consequences of not confessing our sins? What are the benefits of confessing our sins?
8. What is “**repentance**”? What is the relationship of repentance to confession? What does it look like to have a lifestyle of confession and repentance?
9. How specifically do each of the following help us become more sensitive to sin, confess and repent of it, and walk in the Light?
  - Bible reading, memorization, and meditation
  - Prayer
  - Worship
  - Active participation in a local church
  - Accountable relationships (discipleship)
10. **Memorize 1 John 1:8-10.** Ask God to reveal any area of your life that is sinful so you can repent of it and confess it to Him.

[Blanks for this week: *Depravity; Deeds*]