

1 John 1:1-2:11
Sermon Outline For The Congregation
July 4, 2010
Living in Fellowship
(part 2 in 2-week Fellowship series)

To live in the fellowship of the church necessitates walking through life in a certain manner.

Walking As Jesus Walked (2:6)

- An old/new commandment – what is it? (2:7-8)
- 1 John 4:21-5:1 “And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.” (cf. 1:7 “fellowship with one another”)
- To hate a “brother” is to remain in darkness (2:9-11) – connection of 2:9 to 1:6
- Loving fellow Christians, not being everyone’s best friend

Walking in the Light (1:7; 2:3-5)

- those who have been forgiven their sins (1:9) have commandments to direct their choices
- obedience to commandments from the perspective of fellowship: *keeping the commandments is prioritizing fellowship with God and others over self gratification*

Walking So Others Can Walk (2:10)

- John 13:34-35: “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Questions for Reflection

1. What challenges do you face, relationally, being in the life of the church (if you are, or have been, part of a church)? How can you contribute positively to improving fellowship in your church?
2. Think about common temptations you have (particular to you - things you desire to do but know you shouldn't) – in what ways can you see that giving in to those temptations jeopardizes your fellowship with others? With God?
3. Pope John Paul II once said “Love consists of a commitment which limits one’s freedom – it is a giving of the self, and to give oneself means just that: to limit one’s freedom on behalf of another. Limitation of one’s freedom might seem to be something negative and unpleasant, but love makes it a positive, joyful and creative thing. *Freedom exists for the sake of love...* Man longs for love more than for freedom – freedom is the means and love is the end.” What freedoms are hard for you to give up in order to love others? How can you love others joyfully rather than simply feeling the costliness of it?
4. We are called to walk as Jesus walked, to love as he loved us. What is it about the love of Christ for you that you need to hold on to more firmly so that you can grow in your ability to love others? Do you understand the specific ways Christ has loved you? What will help you grasp his love more fully?
5. Is there someone you need to apologize to, confess to, or be reconciled with? Pray about it this week and make a plan to make things right.