

“COMMUNITY OF SINNERS”

1 John 1:5-10

Pastor Steve Cavallaro

I. What is fellowship?

“fellowship with God”

Gospel → “fellowship with one another”

Fellowship is _____ participation in a _____ life.

II. What ruins fellowship with God and one another?

“God is light, and Him there is no darkness at all.”

“while we walk in darkness” → “we lie and do not practice the truth”

“If we say we have no sin” → “deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”

_____ to confess sin _____ fellowship with God & one another.

Genesis 3:7, 10

Psalms 32:3-4

Proverbs 28:13

1 John 2:9

“In the darkness, your sins fester and grow in strength. In the light, they wither and die.”
-Dane Ortlund

“The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So everybody must conceal his sin from himself and from the fellowship. ... Many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous.”
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The sin concealed separated him from the fellowship, make all his apparent fellowship a sham; the sin confessed has helped him to find true fellowship with the brethren in Jesus Christ.”
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

III. What maintains fellowship with God and one another?

"If we walk in the light" → "If we confess our sins"

Confessing sin → *"fellowship with one another" & "the blood cleanses us".*

"He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us"

Refuse to admit sin: *"we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."*

Confession brings forgiveness to _____ fellowship.

Matthew 6:14-15

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:13

1 Thesalonians 5:14

James 5:16, 19-20

"Let us confess what we are, so that the One who is always what he is may heal us."

-Augustine

"We grow as we own up to being real sinners, not theoretical sinners."

-Dane Ortlund

"This is because the same pride that stops us from confessing our sins to a brother or sister also hinders our felt belief in the gospel. Pride hinders fellowship both horizontally and vertically."

-Dane Ortlund

BIG IDEA: The gospel community is sinners confessing sin & being forgiven & cleansed.

Digging Deeper:

1. Which sins do you have a hard time admitting to other people? Why?
2. Which sins do you have a hard time hearing about and accepting the person? Why?
3. Who do you confess your sins to? If no one, who would you consider confessing your sins to?
4. What has Jesus done that builds and maintains gospel community among sinners?
5. If you have sinned against anyone in the congregation, have you admitted it to them?
6. Is there someone you have refused to forgive for sin against you? Why?