

ANALYSIS:

1. The Incarnation (God became flesh in Jesus) is supported by what facts? _____
2. What two goals does John want his Christian readers to experience? _____
3. What is the most basic fact about God that affects fellowship with Him? _____
4. What errors are named which we should avoid regarding sin? _____
5. When is our sin(s) not a problem to our fellowship with God? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

John's purpose in writing to his Christian readers is that they might have fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. What is fellowship? Fellowship is sharing intimate communion with God; sharing the very life of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. This involves thinking the same way God thinks about Himself, sin, His way of salvation, His revealed will on every subject, life, death, etc. There is joy to be experienced in humbly agreeing with God and being in fellowship with Him! However, this chapter contains three facts about sin where a Christian can error. [1] We lie if we say we have fellowship with God and walk in any sin (v 6). [2] We deceive ourselves if we claim we have no indwelling principle of sin (v 8). [3] We make Him a liar if we say we have not sinned (v 10). When we recognize that we have sinned, if we will but confess it, our Father is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let there be no broken fellowship, with loss of joy, because we choose to walk after the flesh, that is, the old man called the carnal man (1 Cor 3:1-3). Let us freely yield our will to agree with God on every subject, including those areas where we would like to think, act or speak according to our own thoughts. Let us gladly give our God His rightful place of Lord over every aspect of our life (Is 55:6-9).

HELP:

1. John says concerning the Word, Jesus Christ, that he [1] heard Him, [2] saw Him with his eyes, [3] looked upon Him, [4] his hands touched Him (v 1).
2. That they might have fellowship with John and the Father and his Son Jesus Christ, and know fullness of joy (vs 3-4).
3. God is light [truth, righteousness, purity, glory] and He has no darkness and cannot abide with darkness [error, evil, ignorance, wickedness] (v 5).
4. Claiming to fellowship with God and walk in darkness, claiming we have no sin nature, claiming we have not sinned (vs 6,8,10).
5. When it is confessed to God and He has forgiven and cleansed us on the basis of Christ's blood (vs 7,9).