

Problem:

How do we as sinners assure ourselves we have an actual relationship with a Holy God

again what is the difference between presumption and assurance?

presumption: titus 1:16; 1 Cor 5

assurance: Dan 9:20-23; 1 Tim 1:15; 1 Jn 1:9

Text:**God is Light**

1John 1:5 ¶ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all (double negative).

and.. 1 Jn 1:1-3a...have heard - personal presence with Jesus with "we" is apostolic

Light = understanding and life in John- Jn 1:1-9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46 (not in darkness) ->

no darkness -darkness would be ignorance and death in Jn but his 1 Jn...

- light and truth related surely but also purity and holiness 1 Jn 1:8; 2:28-3:3

- the nature of our fellowship is based on the nature of God

-no more illusions - reality

So if we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness... we lie

1John 1:6 **If (3rd class condition- all the ifs) we say we have fellowship with him while we walk (are walking) in darkness, we lie** (are lying) and do not practice (are not practicing) the truth.

1John 1:7 **But if we walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin (guilt - see 1:8).

we are lying

- not about unbelievers but believers taking holiness for granted - 2 Sam 6:1-9; Acts 5:1-11

one another

- 1 Jn 1:3b-4; 1 Pet 2:9; 1 Thess 5:5; Eph 5:8-13; (transfiguration)

(are walking in the light) - not about sonship but fellowship - Jn 13:1-11 (present tense)

So if we say we have no sin... we deceive

1John 1:8 **If we say we have no sin (guilt), we deceive** ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1John 1:9 **If we confess** our sins, **he is faithful** and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

confess - homolegeo - to say the same thing

singular sin (8) guilt admitted

-sin in the singular after the word have is about guilt - Jn 9:41

sins plural (9) particular sinful acts confessed...

it is not so much admitting sin as it is judging sins - John 3:19-21

He is faithful - 1 Jn 2:1-2; Rom 8:31-34

So if we say we have not sinned... we make Him a liar

1John 1:10 **If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar**, and his word is not in us.

- confession is taking sides with Him and His Word against yourself

- (Mk 2:17; Rom 3:23; 1:18)

- its about our reality or His- 2 Sam 12:1-9 (implication)(application)

Main Idea:

assurance of fellowship is cultivated through confession of sin

Implication: its about reality

our reality

an outward lie about my relationship with God and His people (5-6) becomes an inward lie about my own goodness (8) then becomes a lie about God and His Word as I cherry pick for others (10)- 2 Sam 12:1-9

Application:

or His

1:6- confession is the cure for enjoyment of God (prayer)

1:7- confession is the cure for enjoyment of fellowship (church)

1:8- confession is the cure for enjoyment of truth (sermons)

1:10- confession is the cure for enjoyment of the Word (reading Bible)

how? confession begins bringing us lower than we ever wanted to go but it doesn't stay there...

from the pit of despair -

confession brings us to the truth of our new righteousness - Phil 3:1-11

and the reality of our new relationship - 2 Cor 5:16-18

Some articles for further reflection and discussion:

<https://www.westernseminary.edu/transformedblog/2012/04/12/the-joy-of-confession/>

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-353/the-believers-confession-of-sin>