

# Can I Know for Sure If I Have a Relationship with God?

Intro:

1. **ILL: Keeping "in register" in color printing.**
2. The Book of I John was written so that you could know if you are "in register" with God.
3. You can tell if you are out of fellowship with God if you are not "in register" with His divine will.

*I John 1:5-2:6*

## I. What is Divine Fellowship Anyway?

- A. **1:3** - It's fellowship with the Father & with the Son.
1. **Fellowship** (κοινωνία) = a common sharing experience.
  2. **1:7** - When you have this relationship with the Lord, you also have it with one another.
- B. **1:7** - You get this fellowship by walking in the light.
1. **1:5** says that God is light! So God is glory; He is pure; He gives direction; He is self revealing & reveals other things.
  2. Darkness is separation from God.
    - a. **I Pet 2:9** - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
    - b. **Jn 3:19** tells us that evil people prefer to stay in the darkness to conceal their lives.

## II. How Would I Know if I Don't Have This Fellowship?

- A. **1:8** - You may sell sin too short!
1. The attitude: "What I do is not important as long as I believe the right stuff!"
    - a. **Rev 3:16** - So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth.
    - b. Lord Jesus said of some of His disciples that their **love would grow cold** (**Matt 24:12**).
    - c. **I Tim 4:1** says that some would even depart from the faith.
    - d. **Heb 6:4-6** tells us they would be impossible to restore when they do!
  2. Besides - the truth is something you do as well as something you believe!
    - a. You can **suppress the truth** (**Rom 1:18**) - you can **obey the truth** (**Gal 5:7**) - & you can **walk in the truth** (**III Jn 3**).
    - b. **Jam 2:24** says that simply believing the truth is not enough!
  3. The prevailing attitude here is "I am not responsible for what I do".
    - a. "My sin was inherited" - "It's not my fault - it's God's fault, or Adam's fault."
    - b. "I was brought up in a bad neighborhood" - "It's my parents' fault, or my sub-culture's fault."
    - c. "That's just the way I am!" **ILL: "I'm Psychologically Sick"** - (Leonard Bernstein's "Westside Story").
    - d. You are saved by grace - but there will be a judgment!
- B. **1:10** - You may make sin too big!
1. The attitude: "I've really never committed a sin" - "I'm not a sinner" - "I live a good moral life" - "I never steal, murder or beat the kids" - "I don't do anything bad enough to get into the newspapers".
  2. **Sin** (ἁμαρτία) = falling short of the target.
    - a. If you are not measuring up to what God wants you to be - you are a sinner.
    - b. If you do not have the purposes God intended for you to have - you are a sinner.
    - c. **Rom 3:23** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

- C. **2:4** - You may say, "I am saved", but fail to obey God!
1. The attitude: "All I have to do is have faith" - "All I have to do is be baptized"!
  2. The Bible does say: you are saved **by faith** (Eph 2:8) & you are saved **by baptism** (I Pet 3:21).
  3. But the Bible also says: you are saved **by the Lord's life** (Rom 5:10), **by the gospel** (Rom 1:16 & I Cor 15:2), **by grace** (Eph 2:5), **by obedience** (Heb 5:9) & **by hope** (Rom 8:24).
  4. **Jam 2:17** - **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**
- D. **2:6** - You may not continue growing spiritually!
1. **Rom 12:1** says that your life is to be a **living sacrifice**.
  2. **Matt 16:24** says you are to be a continual imitation of the Lord's life.

### III. So - What's the Remedy?

- A. **1:9** - If you sell sin too short - the remedy is **confess your sins!**
1. The Lord's blood continues to cleanse you each time you confess your sins.
  2. **Heb 10:23** says God is faithful to forgive.
  3. **Prov 28:13** says that he who confesses his sins finds mercy.
- B. **2:1-2** - If you make sin too big - the remedy is **accept Jesus as Lord & Savior!**
1. **Atoning sacrifice** (ἱλασμός) = KJV & NAS has "propitiation" which means that Lord Jesus became your "mercy seat".
  2. **ILL: What the Mercy Seat was on the Day of Atonement each year.**
  3. Since Lord Jesus became your mercy seat, He pays the price for your sin continually.
- C. **2:3** - If you have not been obeying God - the remedy is **to start obeying His commands!**
1. This isn't referring to obeying the strict commands of the Law of Moses the way the Jews of old did.
  2. The Lord's command, the New Testament Royal Law, is to love your neighbor with all the implications that come with that!
- D. **2:5** - If you are not growing spiritually - the remedy is **let God's word mold your life!**
1. Get into the Bible regularly by establishing a quiet time daily.
  2. Hunger & thirst for it by attending worship & Bible study.
  3. **ILL: "The Test of Love".**

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I think you can!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>