

Counterfeits and Reflectors

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 2:3-6.

B. Subject: how to maintain unbroken fellowship with God.

C. Ways to block the light of God.

1. Ignoring the light.
2. Denying the possibility of sin.
3. Rationalizing sin.

II. The inevitable human reaction to the examination of the spiritual life: many might wonder whether they are Christians at all.

A. John makes a distinction between relationship with Christ (union) and fellowship with Him (communion).

B. Present keeping of commandments is the proof that one has been born again.

1. You cannot know God by trying to keep His commandments.
2. Faith in God must come first.
3. The one loving Jesus keeps His commandments. (John 13:21)
4. Phony Christians say the right things but they disobey His commandments.
5. Love of God is gradually taking over in our lives—love is being completed in us. (Romans 5)

C. The sign of fellowship: walking as Jesus walked.

1. Abiding in Christ means fellowship with Christ.
2. Fruit comes from abiding and resting in Christ. (John 15)
3. This produces meaning in life.
4. We are to walk in the same principle that Jesus walked in.
5. The secret of Jesus' power was dependence upon the Father.

a. Jesus' death means that we must absolutely renounce self-life. His death cuts off the old man with its self-centered ways.

b. Jesus' resurrection is the power that works in the midst of death—when all hope is gone.

D. We are to be reflectors and not counterfeiters of the changed life. (I Corinthians)

Application questions:

1. What comfort does John bring to those wondering whether they are Christians in light of the high demands of the Christian life?

2. Explain the relationship between union and communion in I John.

3. How does employing the secret of fellowship look in your life practically? How should it look?
