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Ask the bigger questions

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Guilt free living

1 John: Confidence and faith - Session 2

Q1. Do you think people really are free to choose their own moral beliefs?

(As a side point: If we do believe there are absolutes when it comes to right and wrong (even if we disagree as to what those absolutes are), then the existence of God has the best explanatory power for this sense of absolutes.)

"I don't believe in the concept of 'sin' as such. I think we are all free to choose our own moral beliefs. I have mine, and you have yours".

1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 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, purifies us from all sin. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Note: the word "fellowship" just means partnership, where there is unity for a common purpose.

Q2. Are followers of Jesus free to choose their own moral beliefs?

Q3. What do you think it means to "walk in the darkness"?

Long before Jesus walked the earth, God's people, the Jews, knew they couldn't freely come into God's presence in the sanctuary of the Lord. Because God is pure and without sin, and they were sinners (or unclean), they needed to be purified. It was serious business.

Numbers 19:20 - The words of Moses, from 1300BC

"But if those who are unclean do not purify themselves, they must be cut off from the community, because they have defiled the sanctuary of the Lord. The water of cleansing has not been sprinkled on them, and they are unclean."

Q4. The 'blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin' (1 John 1:7). How does Jesus' blood purify his followers?

Getting back to John's letter ...

1 John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Note: By "know" John means that his readers might have greater confidence and assurance in what they believe.

Q5. How does this section of 1 John's letter on sin help his readers with their confidence?

"Faith alone saves – but saving faith is never alone" – John Calvin

Q6. What if someone thinks they are a follower of Jesus but can't see any change in their life?

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