



# PUT UP OR SHUT UP

Studies in 1, 2, 3 John & Jude

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## Square Pegs in Round Holes

### Introduction to 1 John 1:1-2:2

#### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

We all know the difficulty of trying to fit square pegs into round holes. Even if you make it work by rounding off the corners it is just not a good fit. This illustrates the dilemma the apostle John was facing when he wrote three short letters to the early church. Later, Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, would write about the same issue: how to know a true believer and how to relate to false ones. Some people in the church are not genuine believers, so it is impossible for them to truly fit in. In 1 John 1 three realities must be present for believers to have fellowship or unity. The first of these is an open confession that Jesus, the Son of God, has come in the flesh. In the first century there was the beginning of a belief system known as Gnosticism that viewed anything material or fleshly as evil, and of a

different nature altogether from the spiritual, which was good. On that basis Jesus could not have actually come in the flesh if He was the Son of God, because flesh was evil and spirit was good. John, the apostle, makes it clear that he (and others) had actually heard Jesus speak with his own ears, had seen him with his eyes, and had touched him with his own hands. In other words Jesus didn’t just appear to be a human being; He actually was a human being. This is crucial for our salvation because He had to die as a man to save man from his sins. The second reality that we must buy into is that fellowship between believers occurs when they both walk in the light. This means that lack of obedience to the commands of Christ renders true unity impossible because that is walking in darkness rather than light.

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**Our fellowship is authentic when our beliefs, obedience and love are true.**

nally, we truly connect with one another in fellowship when we acknowledge the reality of sin in our lives. True believers still sin, and to refuse to admit this is an outright lie. Through God’s grace, though, sin can be dealt with. First, when we confess our sins we are forgiven and cleansed. Secondly, since Jesus has paid for our sins, He stands up for us in the presence of God even when Satan accuses. Unless we confess Christ as the God-man, walk in the light, and confess our sins we will be like square pegs trying to fit into the round hole of fellowship.

## Daily Study Questions for 1 John 1:1-2:2

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)

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|---|--|
| 1. Read 1 John 1:1. Describe at least 3 things about the One whom the writer (the apostle John) referenced in v1.                             |  |
| 2. From 1:2 what are some other characteristics of Jesus that John lists? What did John feel responsible to do in relation to this?           |  |
| 3. In 1:3-4 what were the two reasons that John proclaimed in writing these truths about Jesus (v3, 4)? What is the basis of true fellowship? |  |

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## I John 1:1-2:2 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From 1 John 1:5 what message did Jesus give the apostles? What does this mean? Apply.

5. Using 1:6-7 what is another basis of true fellowship (v6-7)? What does it mean to “walk in the light” and what effect does this have (v7)?

6. In 1:8 what must every person (including believers) admit? What does it mean if they won’t (or can’t) admit this?

7. Read 1:9. What 2 things are we promised if we confess our sins, and why is the promise sure? What does it mean to “confess” our sins?

8. According to 1:10 what else must we admit, and how is this different from 1:8? What if we don’t admit this?

9. Based on 2:1a is John “hard” or “soft” on sin—in other words what should be our goal concerning sin?

10. Looking at 2:1b-2 when we sin what can we be sure of (v1)? Why is Christ able to stand up for us before God when we sin (v2)?

11. Review the three “tests” of fellowship in these verses—what is the right confession (v1-3), the right conduct (v5-7), and the right attitude towards sin (1:8-2:2)?

### Scripture to Remember

*“If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

**1 John 1:7 (NAS)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—Say “Yes” to Community (Col 3:12-17)

*(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Name some things you have said “yes” to that have changed your life, big or little. Why is “Yes” so powerful? What about “No”?
2. Read Col 3:12-14. Name the attitudes in v12-14 that we should put on. Which of these are most difficult for you and why? How can you begin to accept one another better?
3. What should the attitudes of v12 lead to, according to v13? Talk about ways to be more forgiving of people when they do things to you, take things from you or say hurtful things about you.
4. Using 3:15 talk about what “the peace of Christ” is. How do we let this rule (act as judge) in our hearts—and what does gratitude have to do with this?
5. From 3:16-17 name some practical ways to let the Word of God dwell richly in us, and to remember it’s all about Jesus all the time (v17).
6. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday’s message if there is time.