

# **The Man who Rationalizes Sin**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 1:10-2:2.

B. Ways to relate to Christ.

1. Relationship through union with Him.

2. Fellowship, which is the daily experience of His power through a believer.

C. Fellowship is the secret to power. Walking in the light is the key to fellowship.

## II. Why fellowship is difficult: we shut off the light.

A. Some fail to examine themselves.

B. Some fail to believe that sin has been removed.

C. Others rationalize sin.

## III. Rationalizing sin is the commonest failure in the Christian experience.

A. This is an evasion of fact by clothing wrong so it looks right.

B. We argue that we have not sinned, but John says that if we say this, we make Jesus a liar.

1. The word of God makes it clear that we have a source of strength from within.

2. God is faithful—it is impossible for Him to be wrong and for us to be right. (I Corinthians 10:13)

3. We fall because we do not choose to meet circumstances with God's strength.

## IV. There is no need to sin, but if we do, we have an advocate before the Father.

A. His defense is no good though if we defend ourselves.

B. If we rely on Christ for restoration, we will find peace.

## V. Christ took the guilt of the whole world.

A. Sin can never keep anyone from God because of the cross of Christ.

B. The believer must be the one who is reconciled to God because it is already available to him.

**Application questions:**

1. What is the difference between fellowship and relationship with regard to God?

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2. What are some ways that you have rationalized sin? What is the important first step in addressing this?

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3. Why does John remind us that the sin of the whole world has already been dealt with? Explain.

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