



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Humility: I Need to Change**

**Speaker: Sherin Swift, Assistant Pastor**

**Scripture: 1 John 1:5-2:2**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 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.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

*1 John 1:5-2:2 (NIV)*

#### **Sermon Outline:**

A life of faith is not a life without change. Not wanting to admit that we need to change is part of human nature. We prefer that those around us make changes in their lives.

The Christian life is about following Christ where there is a consistent course of change, turning and repentance. Repentance is confession that you are not walking in the way that God has for you, but that you are turning towards God. When we don't recognize our need to change, we forfeit God's grace.

There are the "If only's": "If only my kids would change..., If only my spouse would do this..., If only my boss would say this..., If only God would do this..., then I would...". Change needs to begin within ourselves. When was the last time you said, "I'm sorry" without adding "that you"?

You can't be walking with Christ and have broken relationships, nor can you say that you're walking with God and not be able to have fellowship with others.

If we claim to have not sinned, we make God a liar. Pride is an obstacle to change.

True freedom is known in the light, when you step out and are fully seen. God is light. We can't be seen, or be fully known, in the dark. It is hard to be fully loved if you are not fully seen. In God you are fully known and loved as you are AND you still need to change. God calls us to be transformed.

#### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Assistant Pastor, Sherin Swift continues his series on humility, helping us understand why change is a critical part of our walk with Christ.

#### **Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, what practices, norms or habits needed to be changed? Are those things you recognize something you have been able to change in your family today?

3. Are you able to accept the brokenness in others or do you too often look for the fault in others and then look for an exit? Do you feel the burden is on others to change? Or is there something you might need to change?
4. Think of a difficult relationship you have. How would the relationship be different if you stopped waiting for the person to change and you changed instead? What would you need to do and how would it look? The tension in changing, what does that say about yourself?
5. As we change, God offers his grace as we step out of darkness. What area in your life needs the most grace today?