

Jesus Is the LIGHT: How to Walk in God's Light

(1 John 1:1-2:2) – Part 1

Overview of 1 John

God in First John:

- God is Life (1:1-2)
- God is Light (1:5)
- God is Love (4:8, 16)

Stated Reasons for the Writing of 1 John:

- To have ongoing fellowship with God and one another (1:3)
- To have full or complete joy (1:4)
- That we might not sin, and to remind us of our Advocate when we do (2:1)
- To affirm eternal life based upon belief in God's Son (5:13)

Two Truths About God (1:5)

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Truth #1: God is LIGHT – Light is...

- ...right thinking (what is true) – informational – accuracy – know what is right
- ...right living (what is holy) – moral – purity – do what is right

Truth #2: In Him is NO DARKNESS at all [οὐδενμία – not one]

- **God knows & understands everything perfectly.** He has absolutely no wrong knowledge, ignorance, inaccuracy, falsehood, incorrect understanding.
- **God is absolutely holy.** He has absolutely no sin or sinfulness in character, attitude, intention or action, and rejects all that is sinful.

**God, as LIGHT, knows everything, fully and completely,
and He is absolutely holy in all His being, and completely rejects all that is sinful.**

Am I Fellowshiping with God, Who Is Light?

1. By What Means Do I WALK? (Not measured by words or intentions)

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

- Talking “fellowship” but walking in ignorance (not knowing what is true) and unholiness (not wanting what is pure) is to be *living a lie!*
- **We do not speak the truth** (“we lie”).
- **We do not practice the truth.** (NOTE: Walking in the light, then, results in doing the truth.)
- Our words are validated or proven false by **what directs our ongoing walk.** (By what **MAP** do I walk?)

2. I Am to Walk By Means of God's Light (1:7-8)

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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

a. Requirement:

- Ongoing walking in the light
- As God is in the light
- *Letting God's light guide my ongoing moment-by-moment walk by showing us what is true & holy, and walking accordingly.*

b. Benefits:

- Benefit #1: Ongoing fellowship with one another!
- Benefit #2: Ongoing cleansing from all SIN (no article, singular). The LIGHT counters our sinfulness (our sinful bent) by showing us what is true and holy.
- *Walking in the light involves acknowledging our ongoing sinfulness (what the Bible reveals about us!)*

c. Dangers:

If we say (xs) that sin not we are having (-), ourselves we are deceiving (-) and the truth not is (-) in us.

- *We must acknowledge our sinful bent. Without agreeing with this, we will not be dependent upon God's help to overcome it.*

DECEIT:

- Lying to others (1:6)
- False words indicating a failure to recognize the facts (1:8)
- Ongoing self-deception (1:8)

REJECTION OF THE TRUTH:

- Ongoing rejection of the truth (and the benefits of it – freedom, understanding) (1:8)

If we...	Result #1:	Result #2:
Walk in the Light	We have fellowship	He is cleansing us from all sin
Say that we have no sin	We deceive ourselves	The truth is not in us
Confess our sins	He forgives our sins	He cleanses us from all unrighteousness
Say that we have not sinned	We make Him a liar	His word is not in us

Verses 1:6-8	Verses 1:9—2:2
...cleanses us from all SIN ...if we say that we have no SIN <i>[no confession required or forgiveness]</i>	...If we confess our SINS ...He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] SINS ...If we say that we have not SINNED ...so that you may not SIN ...if anyone SINS ...He Himself is the propitiation for our SINS

3. I Am to Say the Same Thing about Sins as God Does

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

If we are confessing (-s) the sins of us, Faithful [he] is (-) and just, In order that he might forgive (xs) the sins And he might cleanse (xs) us from each unrighteousness. If we say (xs) that not we have sinned, A liar we are making (-) him And the word of him not is (-) in us.

Walking in the light involves v. 7 AND v. 9

a. Requirement:

- **Ongoing responsiveness** to God's light (v. 7) to inform and transform (addresses our sinfulness), and
- **Ongoing confessing** of what God's light reveals [calls sin what God calls it] of what God's light reveals (addresses our sinful actions)

b. Benefits:

- Benefit #1: Forgiveness of the confessed sins (known)
- Benefit #2: Cleansing of each unrighteousness (unknown)

c. Dangers of Not Confessing (1:10):

- Is making God a liar!
- Is rejecting God's Word (light comes from the Word – not feelings, etc.)

2 Cor 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

4. I Am to Reject Every Sin

Is this a Free Ticket to Sin? (2:1-2) – NO!

¹ My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- Written so that we can avoid sinning even once (2:1)
- Any sinning requires advocacy!
 - Jesus Christ the Righteous [One] is our Advocate
 - Jesus Christ is the satisfactory Payment!
 - 1:7 – Jesus' blood cleanses us of all unrighteousness.
 - 1:9 – Jesus' blood allows God to faithfully and justly forgive and cleanse of our sins.
 - 2:1 – Jesus continues to be our Advocate when we do commit sins and confess them.
 - 2:2 – Jesus is the propitiation (satisfactory payment) for the entire world.

Do you immerse yourself in the Word of God for God's truth and holiness, including the truth about yourself?

Do you seek to continuously seek to live by what God reveals through His Word as true and pure?

Do you promptly confess your sins, calling them what God calls them?

"What if I don't want to walk in the light?"

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice 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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

^{2:1} My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.