

How and Why to Walk in God's Light (1 John 1:1-2:2)

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life -- ² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us -- ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 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. 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.

OVERVIEW

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)

GOD, LIGHT, AND EVERY BELIEVER

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.

Two Truths About God (1:5)

Truth #1: God is light

- Light is right knowledge – informational – accuracy – truthfulness – know what is right
- Light is right living – moral – purity – holiness – do what is right

Truth #2: In Him is no darkness at all [οὐδὲμία – not one]

- God has absolutely no wrong knowledge, ignorance, inaccuracy, falsehood, incorrect understanding.
- God has absolutely no sin and sinfulness in character, attitude and action.

God knows everything, fully and completely, with complete holiness and the rejection of all sinfulness.

How Do We Fellowship (v3) with God, Who is Light? *We Are to Walk in the Light.*

1. **By Measuring our Walk, Not Our Wishful Words (Actions, not Intentions)**

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

- Serious believers want to be in fellowship with God and to be known by their obedience (truth sets free!).
- Talking "fellowship" but walking in ignorance and unholiness is to be *living a lie!*
- Our words are validated or proven false by our ongoing walk.
- Walking in the light results in doing the truth.
- Knowing the truth + living by the truth = walking in the light.

2. **By Walking by What God's Light Reveals (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.*

- Light tells us what is true (informational)
- Light tells us what is pure (moral)
- Requirement: Ongoing walking in [by means of] the light (showing us what is true and pure)
- Benefit #1: Ongoing fellowship with one another!
- Benefit #2: Ongoing cleansing from all SIN (no article, singular)
- Walking in the light involves acknowledging our ongoing sinfulness (what the Bible reveals about us!):

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

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

- Lying to others (1:6)
- False words indicating a failure to recognize the facts (1:8)
- Ongoing self-deception (1:8)
- Ongoing rejection of the truth (and the benefits of it – freedom, understanding) (1:8)

3. **By Saying 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 him.

Walking in the light involves

- (v. 7) Ongoing responsiveness to God's light to inform and transform (addresses our sinfulness), and
- Requirement: Ongoing confessing [calls sin what God calls it] of what God's light reveals (addresses our sinful actions)
- Benefit #1: Forgiveness of the confessed sins
- Benefit #2: Forgiveness of each unrighteousness (what about sins we are not aware of?)

Not Confessing (1:10)

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

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.*

- We are not to sin even once,
- But we have an Advocate if we do!
- Jesus Christ is the satisfactory Payment!:
 - 1:7 – His blood cleanses us of all unrighteousness.
 - 1:9 – His blood allows God to faithfully and justly forgive and cleanse of our sins.
 - 2:1 – He continues to be our Advocate when we do commit sins and confess them.
 - 2:2 – His death was 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?