

1 John

“Light”

Text: 1John 1:5-10 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with him while we 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say 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 we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- 1) WALK - What does walk mean? “walk” means a way of life, not just an idea, not just a “position” in Christ. Walk means life. It is the lifestyle, mindset, and actions of one that is alive.

Our “walk” consist of the choices that we make as we live the LIFE we have receive from the SON.

- 2) LIGHT – What does John mean when he talks about Light?

Note: John uses the word over 30 times in his NT writings. When the Spirit repeats Himself over and over there is always a vital message being revealed to us about Jesus and our life with him!

The message (key word) is found in Chapter 1:5,6 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

- a) What does he mean by LIGHT? The short answer: **TRUTH**.

This comes from verse 6: “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the TRUTH.” John in the context of his revelation of LIGHT uses the word TRUTH as a synonym. So it seems that truth is virtually the same as light.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

- b) In other words, “God is light” means that God is the source and measure of all that is true.
- c) **LIGHT** is also synonymous with the word **WORD** which is synonymous with word **TRUTH**.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:4,5 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Of John the Baptist he wrote: John 1:8,9 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. **9** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and **truth**.

John heard Jesus make this claim himself. You can see it in John 8

Then Jesus said to the crowd "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

He proclaimed this right after the religious leaders caught a woman in the act of committing adultery.

Jesus says to the lady on the ground, John 8:10 "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" John 8:11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

Then Jesus said to the crowd "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

3) DARKNESS – what does John mean by the word DARKNESS.

a) Ten times in John's writings he refers to DARKNESS specifically as SIN. But DARKNESS is even more comprehensive than that.

"Darkness" is not simply the equivalent to sin or wrongdoing. It is the realm of all that opposes Christ and all that is hostile to God and/or hostile to Gods Word.

b) To walk in darkness is to give into desires that exist outside the realm of truth.

i) Example: Hating your brother.

John 2:9-11 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. **10** Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. **11** But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

ii) Darkness and light are two opposing forces, each making their competing claims upon us. We are challenged to decide in which realm we will choose to live.

How does a Believer Walk in the Light?

1) Walking in the light means, like Jesus, we must walk in Truth.

a) Peter said it best in 1 Peter 2:21 NIV "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps"

b) Walking in the light brings us a progressive revelation of God and a progressive revelation of our identity in Him.

2) Walking in the light means, like Jesus, we choose to seek the Father's pleasure more than our own.

a) Chapter 2:8 says (at the end), "The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining." What is this darkness that is passing away?

Notice that the same word for passing away is used in 2:17, "The world is passing away and the desire of it."

From this we can see that walking in darkness means being controlled by desires for this world instead of desires for God.

b) Every time you face decision, you say **Yes God and No Devil** dark desires pass away and you are fueling the new desires for the light!

3) Walking in the light means, like Jesus, we live according to the Scriptures.

Jesus is the LIGHT, because He is the Living WORD and He has given us the written WORD for us to WALK in so we don't have to stumble in darkness our godless culture.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Walking in the light of His word, benefits us also because it reveals any remaining dark tendencies in our life. 1 John 1:8,9 If we say 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.

4) Walking in the light means, like Jesus, we abide in the Father's presence.

1 John 2:24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

The word translated "abide" literally means to "be at home"

John 14:23 "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."