

“WALKING IN THE LIGHT”

I JOHN 1:5-7

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus said in John 11:9-10 that there are 12 hours in the day, and that “if anyone walks in the day he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

Such is man’s problem—“the light is not in Him.” He cannot walk without stumbling, for he walks in the darkness. But, what about professing Christians. Can Christians have fellowship with God (see v. 3) and yet walk in darkness? Can we have a relationship with God and yet practice wickedness? Many a Christian, a pastor, an evangelist have lived a double life over the years—preaching one thing and living another. Can this be so? Can one truly be a Christian in fellowship with God and yet walk in darkness?

John’s answer is clear. **NO**. One who is a child of God in fellowship with his Father must reflect His nature.

GOD IS LIGHT. YOU MUST WALK IN THE LIGHT.

I. YOU MUST KNOW GOD (5)

Jesus’ message delivered to us:

- Note: “We have heard”—same as v. 1 and v. 3; past with continuing effects in the present.
- “Message used only here and in 3:11 in NT; related to “angel, messenger.”
- “From Him”—Jesus; when did He say this? May refer to the “sum of His teachings”
- “Announce” is a similar word to “proclaim in vv. 2 & 3. Present tense—continuous activity

A. God is Light.

1. His essential nature—not merely that He has light, or dwells in light.
2. Light represents His glory, his salvation, but mostly here His **truth**, and His **righteousness, purity**.
3. In essence it is His **HOLINESS**
 - John is “the Theologian of the apostles.
 - He has two other similar statements about God’s nature—“God is spirit” in Jn. 4:24, and “God is love” in I Jn. 4:8.
 - We may think of how important “light” is to this world; note that God’s first act of creation was, “Let there be light.”
 - God is light and is the source of all light.
 - Note that John does not say that “God is a light,” or that “God is the light.”

B. In God there is no darkness—not one little bit.

1. “In Him”—in His essential nature and being.
2. Double negative is very powerful—“no...not any.”
3. John loves to use contrasts; “darkness” is the opposite of light.
 - It represents error.
 - It represents wickedness and evil in character, words, and behavior.

II. YOU MUST PRACTICE THE TRUTH (6)

A. A hypocritical claim—“**We have fellowship with Him**” (cf. v. 3—“fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

1. “In fellowship with God”
 - The tense is present—having continual fellowship with God.
 - “Fellowship” means sharing something “in common.” But, God is light—no light, no fellowship!
2. Yet walking in darkness—pattern of life; “walking about, living” regularly and continually

- Not imitating God’s character and behavior.
 - Holding false doctrine; living bad behavior.
 - Living a “profane” life, not holy, not godly, not righteous, not pure.
- B. An honest assessment
1. You are a liar—present tense; “you are lying, practicing lying.”
 2. You do not “do/practice the “truth.”
 - Again present tense—not your regular practice.
 - Truth must be believed and held to, but if not lived and practiced it is empty and meaningless.
- III. YOU MUST WALK IN THE LIGHT (7)
- A. The consistency of life
1. Walk in the light—walking about, living=lifestyle.
 - Common in Hebrew and in Greek for regular pattern or walk of life.
 - Also is present tense—walking continually.
 - In the sphere of the light, and under the influence of light
 2. As He is in the light—Literally **He Himself**, and no one else in total purity and Holiness
 - Not only is light His essential nature, it is His realm.
 - See I Tim. 6:16—who “dwells in unapproachable light”—due to man’s sinfulness
 - Only He is absolutely holy and pure and totally glorious.
 - Yet, in our lifestyle, we are to imitate Him: “Be ye holy, for I am holy.”
 - **Illus:** Lev. 19:2-3—1st example is obedience to parents!
- B. The Glorious consequences
1. We have fellowship with one another
 - The “one-another” here as elsewhere in John, most likely refers to other believers, which then involves fellowship with God (see v. 3).
 - It again means that we share in common “light” and all that accompanies that light.
 - One cannot rightly have fellowship with God if he does not have fellowship with his brother.
 2. Jesus’ blood cleanses us from sin
 - It is not that fellowship with brethren produced forgiveness and cleansing, but that regular fellowship makes one aware of his spiritual need and sinfulness.
 - Real physical blood of Jesus—his atoning, sacrificial death.
 - God’s Son’s blood—his divine nature makes his death sufficient.
 - There is a continual need, thus a continual cleansing.
 - The cleansing is from all sin—in all its manifestations, no matter how bad.
 - Cleansing both accompanies and follows salvation/justification.
 - This verse does not refer to the original “washing” depicted in Titus 3:5 & I Cor. 6:11—“washed, sanctified, justified.” Such is called **positional sanctification**.
 - This verse refers to **progressive sanctification**.
 - This is not a claim to sinless perfection—see vv. 8-10.

CONCLUSION

First, have you had your spiritual bath? Are you saved?

Second, are you daily being washed in the blood of Jesus?

Third, are you daily “walking in the light? OR, do you still “walk in darkness?”

Fourth, are you regularly having fellowship with fellow Christians?

God is Light—there is no darkness at all in Him. Should there be any in our lives?

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