

1 John 1:5-10 – Walk in the Light

Introduction

Main Point: God is light, and His light has a revelatory moral quality that is truthful, pure, and holy. If we walk in His light, that is if we trust God, we will have fellowship with Him and fellow believers, forgiven of all sin by Christ's blood. If we do not walk in God's light, we are self-deceived and make God a liar.

Foundational Doctrinal Truth: God is Light (v 5-6)

1. The World does not begin with God, it begins with Self
 - a. Idolatry replaces God in the World
 - b. God exposes the immoral deeds of the World
 - c. God is Light is dreadful to the World (**Jn 3:19-21**)
2. God is Light
 - a. No darkness, no evil, no ignorance, no error
 - b. Perfectly pure, Perfect Truth
 - c. God is Light = Source of Truth (**v 6**)
 - i. Divine Revelation is a Lamp, Light (**Prv 6:23**)
 - ii. Beginning with God is the beginning of knowledge (**Prv 1:7**)
 - iii. The World Skews Truth
 - d. Gnosticism
 - i. Taught they had a special hidden knowledge, hidden revelation from God only they had
 - ii. Taught a Higher Plane/Level of Belief
 - iii. Taught sin could be removed through rituals, & sin never touched the body since it was material
 - iv. Dualism: firms separation between body & soul
 - v. Direct Conflict with Christianity: Incarnation
 - vi. Today: Secular Education, Science, Medicine, Psychotherapy denies God and Sin, & the body, problems can be "fixed" – hidden knowledge
 - vii. Personal: The problem is not me, but education, upbringing, something deep inside
 - e. God is Light – completely true and exposes our sin
 - f. If we believe in His Light, we will be set free
 - g. Every good and perfect gift (grace) comes down from the Father of Heavenly Lights (**James 1:17**)

Implication 1: By God's Grace, He Shows Us Our Sin (v 6-7, 10)

1. John addresses the Professing *un*-Believer who claims new birth but lives in darkness – Lip Service Only; Liars
2. They do not practice the Truth = Unsaved individuals
3. Their Error: It does not matter how I live since God has forgiven me and we are on good terms
4. We are redeemed to bear fruit by following Jesus
 - a. God's Law becomes our Truth, our Reality
 - b. God's Law reveals how we are to Live – to walk in the Light
 - c. New Birth, Salvation Unites you to the Light – It is Impossible to walk in Darkness
5. Claiming No Sin makes you a liar, Also a Blasphemer
 - a. The Lord has stated ALL Sin, Totally Depraved
6. Problems: First: In our Fallen State we are Totally Corrupted – Individually and Universally (**Rom 3:10-18; 1 Kg 8:46; Ps 14:3; Eccl 7:20; Is 53:6**)
 - a. Satan also blinds the eyes of every unbeliever (**2 Cor 4:3-4**) *How do we see the light and walk in it?*

Implication 2: By God's Grace, He Saves Us From Sin (v 6-7, 9)

1. Jesus is the Light of men where we find life (**Jn 1:4-5**)
2. By God's Will, His Grace Unblinds Us & Creates Light in a Dark Heart (**2 Cor 4:3-6; Jn 3:19-21; Jn 1:12-13**)
3. Problems Continued: Second: Perfectionism
 - a. Walking in the Light does not mean Sinlessness (**vv 6-7, 9**) (*Christians confess Sin*)
 - b. We cannot ignore, diagnose, label, say "I am who I am," classify, relativize, or minimize sin
 - c. Walking in the Light manifests itself in Love (**2:9-11**)
4. Problems: Third: Legalism
 - a. Acknowledge Sin and God's Law
 - b. Believe they can live up to God's standard without His mercy – Exhausting to Try!
 - c. You cannot contribute anything to your Righteousness

Implication 3: By God's Grace, He Sanctifies Us From Sin (v 9)

1. Daily Confession of All Sin leads to Righteous Walking in the Light
2. God is Faithful and (Just?) to Forgive – The Law of God must be Fulfilled and God must live up to His Own Word
3. God's Justice in Forgiveness – The Cross of Calvary PAID for the wicked deeds of those who Believe – Mercy!
4. God redeems us and sanctifies us (**Rom 3:23-26**)