

Walking in the Light; 1 John 1:5-10

I. The Message

A. 1 John 1:5 (ESV); 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.

B. God is Light

1. Light is used to describe God
2. Genesis 1:3–4 (ESV); ³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.
3. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV); For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

C. Light is a symbol of all that is lovely, beautiful, holy, good, desirable, righteous and lovable

1. Daniel 12:1–3 (ESV); ¹ “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.
2. Matthew 13:40–43 (ESV); ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.
3. Philippians 2:14–16 (ESV); ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

D. No Darkness at all

1. Darkness is a symbol of all that is wicked, ignorant, gloomy, shameful, depraved and perverted
2. God, as well as His Son Jesus, are lovely, beautiful, holy, good, desirable, righteous and lovable
3. Jesus was sinless while living in the flesh in this world — quite a feat!

E. We have to understand the message before we can understand our lives

1. We are lights, shining God’s loveliness, beauty, holiness, goodness, desirableness, righteousness, and love
2. This message about God must come from people displaying the same characteristics

II. Walking

A. 1 John 1:6–7 (ESV); 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.

- B. A settled, practiced lifestyle — to conduct one’s life, to live, to behave
 - C. Fellowship - close association, communion, close relationship (a favorite expression for the marital relationship as the most intimate between human beings) *BDAG*
 - 1. Ephesians 5:25-32 compares our relationship with Christ to a marriage
 - 2. In John 3:27-30 John the Baptist is clarifying his job as the forerunner of the Christ using the marriage relationship (bride and bridegroom)
 - 3. Revelation 21:2ff describes the holy city, new Jerusalem as a bride adorned for her husband — verse 9 “come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”
 - D. In Darkness
 - 1. A settled practiced lifestyle of wickedness, ignorance, shameful, depraved, and perverted behavior
 - 2. We cannot claim to have a (marital) relationship (fellowship) with God if we are not living out his commands and desires daily
 - 3. We are liars and do not practice the truth — we are married to wickedness
 - E. In Light
 - 1. A settled practiced lifestyle of love, holiness, goodness, and righteousness
 - 2. In order to claim fellowship (a marital relationship) with God we must remember we are set apart for a divine purpose (holy); that we must be right with God (righteousness); that we must love our neighbors as ourselves
 - F. Fellowship with God is determined by our walk (lives)
 - G. We can claim fellowship (faith) but without a life of love, holiness, goodness, and righteousness to back it up it means nothing
 - H. Our sins are continually cleansed as we walk in fellowship (the light) with God
- III. Cleansed
- A. 1 John 1:8–10 (ESV); 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.
 - B. We all have sinned and we continue to sin therefore we are in need of cleansing
 - C. Confess
 - 1. To share a common view or be of common mind about a matter, agree; to concede that something is factual and true, grant, admit; to speak the same thing
 - 2. If we agree with God about our sins; if we speak the same thing as God concerning our sins, He forgives
 - 3. Our forgiveness is determined by our agreement with God about our sin
 - D. Cleanse
 - 1. To purify, to heal — we are purified, healed by the blood of Jesus
 - 2. Isaiah 53:3–5 (ESV); ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
 - 3. Our former selves, our old man is gone
 - 4. Ephesians 2:1-10
 - 5. 1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV); And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
 - E. We have a God who is pure, holy, good, and righteous — and He wants to save us!

IV. Walk the Talk

- A. If we claim Christ as our King then we must be walking in the light — in love, holiness, goodness, and righteousness
- B. To walk any other way (in darkness) is to disagree with God and thereby refuse fellowship with him (bride and bridegroom)
- C. He has cleansed us from sin and continually cleanses us who are betrothed to Him
- D. Romans 8:1 (ESV); There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- E. For those who are walking in the light