

THE LIGHT OF JESUS' LOVE

1.7.2018

1 John 1:5-10



1 JOHN

JESUS' LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

0. GOD IS LIGHT (MOST VIVIDLY SEEN IN JESUS!)

- Please notice how John begins this letter after the introduction verses. He begins with who God is and what He is like! **Q.** What do you believe about God why do you believe it? John starts there.

1 JOHN 1:5 5 This is the message we have heard from him (Jesus) and proclaim to you, that God (the Father) is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

- He's *not* saying, "Light" is the sum total of who God is OR that it's the sum total of what Jesus taught about God; rather, John is saying "Light" is a wonderful summary what Jesus taught about of God's divine nature.
- When John writes, "God is light" he's saying, "God is perfectly pure both morally and intellectually." In a word, God is "Holy." *now he moves straight to what it means for us to have fellowship with GOD, who is LIGHT.

1. GOD INFECTS US WITH HIS LIGHT

1 JOHN 1:6-7 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice (do) 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.

- *Walking in Darkness* is set against *Walking in the Light*. **Q.** What does he mean?
- PLEASE NOTICE John doesn't use the word "STUMBLE." Jesus' brother, James uses that word. Of Christians he says, "We all stumble in many ways." John uses the word "WALK." *Stumbling is different than walking

Q. What does it mean to WALK IN DARKNESS?

- **A1.** Living in Sin. **A2.** Living in Isolation. *Adam and Eve in the Garden
- John is saying, If you say you are in Christ, Saved, a Christian, forgiven, at peace with God and yet Walk in the darkness of **UNREPENTANT SIN**—living in Sin that you don't care about putting to death—that is evidence that you are a lying. You don't have real fellowship with Jesus or cleansing of your sin.
- In addition, he's saying, If you say you are in Christ, Saved, a Christian, forgiven & yet Walk in the darkness of **ISOLATION**—living functionally indifferent towards Jesus' church & authentic Christian community—that is also evidence that you are lying. You don't have real fellowship with Jesus or cleansing of your sin.

Q. What does it mean to WALK IN THE LIGHT?

- **A1.** Seeking to live Holy as He is holy.
- **A2.** It also means, necessarily, to live in fellowship with Jesus' Church.
- John is saying, If you seek to live Holy and live in Community with Jesus' people—that is evidence that you truly do have fellowship with Jesus and His blood (his death in your place) cleanses you of your sin.
- **Q.** How can John make such **STAGGERING CLAIMS?! Because...**
- Anyone who truly has **FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**—a mutual relationship of love, acceptance, & activity—through faith in Jesus, God, who is Light, has **INFECTED** them with His light! **This is what C.S. Lewis calls Good Infection.**
- **C.S. LEWIS in Mere Christianity:** "Good things as well as bad, you know, are caught by a kind of infection... [Jesus] came to this world and became a man in order to spread to other men the kind of life He has... And He transmits it not by [bloodlines] but by what I have called 'good infection'. Everyone who gets it gets it by personal contact with Him."
- If you have personal contact with Jesus—if your faith is in Him and what He's done for you—you have that Good Infection. And if we have this fellowship with Jesus through faith, 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."

- **What Jesus says in JOHN 3:19-21 is especially helpful here.** 19b The light (*Jesus*) has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.
- **Q. Why do people live in SIN (walk in darkness)? A.** Because they don't love Jesus (the "light").
- 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.
- **Q. Why do people live in ISOLATION (refusing to come to the light)? A.** Because they don't want their evil deeds to be exposed.
- 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."
- **Q. Why does anyone comes to the light and live in the light? A.** Because God has done it—He has given them that Good Infection of light and life. "that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."
- **God is light!** And anyone who has fellowship with Him through faith in Jesus, He has infected with that Light, so that we actually desire and are strengthened by His Spirit to "walk in the light as He is in the light."
- Yet God does not only INFECT us with His Light, He also *PURIFIES* us by it.

2. GOD PURIFIES US BY HIS LIGHT

- 1 JOHN 1:8-10 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.
- **Q. Do you feel the seeming tension that arises in verse 8 and 10?** John is guarding us both from theological *ERROR* and guarding us from psychological *DESPAIR*!
- **Christians are characterized by walking in the light—in holiness—but never for a minute should we think or claim that we never stumble into the dark—that we never sin anymore!** If we think that, we're deceived and we're calling God a liar. If we claim that, the truth is not in us; His word is not in us.
- **In light of that, look at the Good News found in verse 9!**
- 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and *JUST* to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **While spending time in Uganda, my wife and I noticed many peculiar things:** one of which was bottles of water laid out on top of the tins roofs of houses. When we asked why, we were told that when this dirty water was exposed to the LIGHT, it was purified and became safe to drink.
- The good news of the gospel is that just as dirty water is purified when exposed to the light, **so dirty sinners when exposed to the light of the World—Jesus Christ—are forgiven of their sins and cleansed from all unrighteousness.**
- **Friends, there is good news for those who have LIVED IN SIN and ISOLATION.**
- **The Gospel is the good news that though we have all HATED JESUS;** though we have *ISOLATED* ourselves from Him and His people by walking in darkness... Jesus has *LOVED US* and *NOT ISOLATED HIMSELF FROM US*. He came to the earth as a man ultimately to go to the cross and *PAY* for your sin in your place!
- **And if you see Him and trust Him and what He's done on the cross—loving you to the point of death on a cross in spite of your lack of love for Him—His love will melt your hate into love.**
- **And because of what He's done on the cross, you won't have to hide in your sin anymore.** You can be honest about it with Him & His people, confessing your sin & coming into the light, knowing this...
- **Because of what He has done on the cross, there's no sin that could ever be uncovered in your life that has not already been covered by the blood of Jesus.**
- **There is no worldly darkness in you that Jesus—the Light of the World—cannot faithfully and justly purify!**
- This is the *LIGHT OF JESUS' LOVE!*