

Walking in the Light

Text: 1 John 1:5-11

Topics: Battling sin, Christian fellowship

Series: Bold Assurance

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To walk in the light...

1. Step out of the _____ (vs. 5-7a)

- A. Christians are to be different from the rest of the world - as different as light is from darkness.
- B. To walk in the light is to live a life that reflects God's holiness.
- C. Are you comfortable living in darkness or do you have a strong desire to dwell in the light?

2. Stay in _____ (vs. 7b)

- A. If we are rightly connected with God, we will rightly be connected with other believers.
 - i. "There is no real fellowship with God which is not expressed in fellowship with other believers." (Colin G. Kruse - Pillar NT Commentary on 1 John)
 - ii. "A longing for heavenly glory in the presence of God must be accompanied by a fervent desire to have fellowship with the church on earth." (Simon J. Kistemaker and William Hendriksen, *Exposition of James and the Epistles of John*, vol. 14, New Testament Commentary)
- B. Are you in genuine fellowship with other Christians? Are you honestly plugged into your local church?

3. _____ all Sin (vs. 7c-11)

- A. Walking in the light will reveal sin in our lives. The only way to forge forward is to embrace the cross and be washed in the blood.
- B. The forgiveness of Christ is total, faithful, and cleansing.
 - i. Total - all sin is forgiven!
 - ii. Faithful - God is faithful to forgive anyone who will repent of their sins.
 - iii. Cleansing - God removes the guilty stains of sin.
- C. What sin have you not confessed? Are you carrying the guilt of your sins or have you experienced the cleansing power of Jesus Christ?

Confessing our sins...

It is commonly asked if 1 John 1:9 refers to the initial moment of salvation (called "Justification" in theological terms) or the frequent need of a believer to confess sins daily (called "Sanctification" in theological terms). Which view is right? This passage does not fully indicate one view or the other, and many scholars suggest that both views are concurrently possible. Christians must both confess their sins initially to receive salvation and to maintain daily fellowship with God.

The Bible warns about concealing our sins:

Psalm 32:1–5 (HCSB) *How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How joyful is the man the Lord does not charge with sin and in whose spirit is no deceit! When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy on me; my strength was drained as in the summer's heat. Selah Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You took away the guilt of my sin. Selah*

Proverbs 28:13 (HCSB) *The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.*

James 5:16 (HCSB) *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.*

Application Questions

1. What message did the writer hear and declare? (1:5)
2. What inconsistency did John address? (1:6)
3. What results from "walking in the light"? (1:7)
4. How were some believers apparently deceiving themselves? (1:8)
5. What is the result of confessing one's sins? (1:9)
6. In what way can a person make God out to be a liar? (1:10)
7. What do you think the terms "light" and "darkness" represent?
8. In what way is God similar to light?
9. In what way do we "walk in darkness"?
10. How can we "walk in the light"?
11. How does the promise of being purified from all sin make you feel?
12. Why would someone claim that he or she was without sin?
13. What role does the confession of sins play in your daily life?
14. How important is fellowship with other believers to you?
15. What steps will you take this week to walk in the light?