**Walk in The Light**

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**1 John 1:6-10**

**Wednesday Evening**

**August 16, 2023**

**1 John 1:6-10**

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and 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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that 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 that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

**6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

Saints, while “light” has many connotations, this reference points specifically to God’s purity.

Therefore, those who claim to have fellowship with God are living in God’s light, trying to live holy and pure lives for him.

To claim to belong to God but then to go on living in spiritual darkness is hypocritical. In fact, John says that people who are lying, Christ will expose and judge such deceit.

**1 Timothy 1:9-10**

9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine…

Saints, here John was confronting the first of three claims of the false teachers:

**That people can have fellowship with God and still walk in sin!**

False teachers who thought that the physical body was evil or worthless taught one of two approaches to behavior:

**Either they insisted on denying bodily desires through rigid discipline, or they approved of gratifying every physical lust because the body was going to be destroyed anyway**.

Here John was stating that no one can claim to be a Christian and still live in evil and immorality.

**Galatians 5:22-26**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

**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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

Saints, those who claim to follow the Son must be living in the light of God’s presence. They must be illumined by the truth of God’s character.

To “live in the light” requires constant contact with God and no tolerance for dishonesty, hypocrisy, or sin. Living in the light comes from continuous effort to take on Christ’s qualities. This involves complete transformation from within.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Living in the light leads to fellowship with each other. This fellowship among believers results from each believer’s having fellowship with God.

True spirituality manifests itself in community fellowship. One cannot say that he or she communes with God and then refuse to commune with God’s people.

Such was the case with some of the false teachers of John’s day, and this situation exists among false cults today.

Often their followers and leaders claim to have special relationships with God, but they don’t affiliate with other believers. They stay isolated and withdraw from everyone else.

John’s point is that the natural result of living in the light (in fellowship with God) should be joyful relationships with other Christians.

Another result of living in the light is that the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. John emphasized that the death of Christ saves people, not the false teachers’ knowledge.

The verb cleanses also means “purifies.” Sin is not only forgiven, it is erased. How does Jesus’ blood do that? In Old Testament times, believers would symbolically transfer their sins to an animal, which they then would sacrifice.

**Hebrews 10:16-18**

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen

Saints, the animal died in their place to pay for their sin and to allow them to continue living in God’s favor. God graciously forgave them because of their faith in him and because they obeyed his commandments concerning the sacrifice.

Those sacrifices anticipated the day when Christ would completely remove sin. Real cleansing from sin came with Jesus when John the Baptist said:

**John 1:29**

Behold the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”

Saints, those who “live in the light,” the true believers, will still find themselves at times in sin. Christians will not be made completely perfect until Jesus returns and brings them into his Kingdom.

When they do sin, however, God has already made provision to deal with those sins through the blood of his Son. That provision allows God’s people to continue to walk in the light—

dealing with sin through confession and receiving his forgiveness so that fellowship with God and with others can remain unhindered.

**8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

Saints, John attacked the second claim of the false teachers that people could have no sin.

The false teachers refused to take sin seriously. In saying that they had no sin, they may have been saying that they did not need Jesus’ death on the cross.

**Romans 3:23-24**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus…

Saints, they may have considered that Jesus’ death abolished all sin, including the ability to sin.

Or, they may have been teaching the false notion that the spirit and body are completely separate and that whatever a person does in the body does not affect the spirit.

John explained that those who believe the possibility of human sinlessness are fooling themselves and refusing to accept the truth as expressed in God’s word.

The truth of God’s word does not change: people are sinful. Though Jesus condemned sin once for all, Christians still sin.

**9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Saints, being God’s people does not mean denying sin, but confessing it. Because all people are sinners, Jesus had to die.

Because sin is not completely eradicated from the lives of those who believe in Jesus, God graciously gave his followers provision for the problem of sin.

John explained it here in a nutshell: If we confess . . . he is faithful and just to forgive.

To confess our sins means to agree with God that an act or thought was wrong, to acknowledge this to God, to seek forgiveness, and to make a commitment to not let it happen again.

Confession of sins is necessary for maintaining continual fellowship with God, which in turn will enable people to have good fellowship with members of the church community.

Confession is supposed to free people to enjoy fellowship with Christ. But some Christians do not understand how it works.

They feel so guilty that they confess the same sins over and over; then they wonder if they might have forgotten something.

**Romans 8:1-4**

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Saints, other Christians believe that God forgives them when they confess, but if they died with unconfessed sins, they would be forever lost.

Saints, these Christians do not understand that God wants to forgive people. He allowed his beloved Son to die just so he could offer them pardon.

When people come to Christ, he forgives all the sins they have committed or will ever commit. They don’t need to confess the sins of the past all over again, and they don’t need to fear that God will reject them if they don’t keep their slate perfectly clean.

Of course, believers should continue to confess their sins, but not because failure to do so will make them lose their salvation. Believers’ relationship with Christ is secure. Instead, they should confess so that they can enjoy maximum fellowship and joy with him.

**John 10:27-30**

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

That God is faithful means he is dependable and keeps his promises. God promises forgiveness, even in the Old Testament.

**Jeremiah 31:34**

“No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

**Micah 7:18-19**

18 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. 19 He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.

Saints, God wants to forgive his people; he wants to maintain close fellowship with them. But this can only happen when the way to him is cleared of sin’s debris—and that can only happen through confession.

That God is just, means that he could not overlook people’s sin. He could not decide to let people get away with sin or to make the penalty less severe.

**Romans 6:23**

“The wages of sin is death”

Sacrifices had been offered for sin, and blood had been spilt from the beginning. This could not change because God does not change.

Justice would have to be done in order to decisively deal with sin. But instead of making people pay for their sins, God took the punishment upon himself through his Son.

In this way, justice was done, and the way was paved for God to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. Those who confess their sins to God can trust in his forgiveness because they can trust in his character.

**10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

Saints, the false teachers not only denied that sin breaks people’s fellowship with God and that they had a sinful nature, but some even had the audacity to make a third claim—that they had not sinned.

Saints, these false teachers thought that their superior knowledge had placed them out of the realm of sin, rendering them incapable of sinning.

Shis claim went beyond telling a lie or merely fooling themselves; this claim was calling God a liar. God says that all have sinned—otherwise he would not have needed to send his Son.

Saints, to claim sinlessness treats the Cross with contempt and Christ’s suffering as worthless. To do this, said John, shows that God’s word has no place in our hearts.

John wanted his readers to understand that people who make such a denial of sinful acts do not have the Word of God permeating and changing their lives because the Word of God clearly states throughout that all people sin and all need a Savior!

**1 Kings 8:46**

"When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near…

**Psalm 14:3**

“They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one”

**Isaiah 53:6**

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”

**Isaiah 64:6**

But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

**Romans 3:23**

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

Saints, just know this that People cannot be forgiven if they do not recognize their sin!

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name**