

LIGHT CHANGES EVERYTHING

#2 – 1 John 1:5-10

Introduction: Imagine the sky at night without the moon or stars...

- Imagine a city with no light
- Imagine a cave or room without light

1 John 1:5-10 (NLT) *This is the message we heard from Jesus, and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

1. God is Light

1 John 1:5-10a (NLT) *This is the message we heard from Jesus, and now declare to you: God is light...*

Ps 104:2 *God wraps Himself in light*

- Some translations say “God is pure light”
 - Some light casts shadows or leaves dark corners
 - Pure light shows up everything



1 John 1:5-10b (NLT) *...and there is no darkness in him at all.*

- God cannot be “mostly good”
 - Does that mean that God is unapproachable?

John 8:12 *Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*

- Follows = embraces Jesus

2. Get Real with Yourself

1 John 1:6 *So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.*

- Fellowship – all the fellows in one ship
 - This is for someone who says he has seen the light, but chooses to walk in partial darkness.
- What are some of the things Jesus is talking about?
 - Jesus' statement to the religious leaders after he made the statement: "I am the Light..."

John 8: 15-16 *For you've set yourselves up as judges of others based on outward appearances, but I certainly never judge others that way. For I discern the truth. And I am not alone in my judgments, for my Father and I have the same Understanding in all things, and He has sent me to you..*

- Judgement based on human appearances
- Whom had they just judged?
 - Jesus
 - Woman caught in adultery
- What did Jesus write in the dust when the woman was brought before Him?
 - The accusers' names? OR...



Jeremiah 17:13 *LORD, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of living water.*

3. Live by the Truth

1 John 1: 6 *So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.*

- “Absolute” truth is challenged by our society
- History is full of examples where truth has been compromised.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

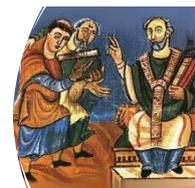
(a) Charlemagne was first “Holy Roman Emperor” (AD 742-814AD)

- Claimed to be a Christian
 - Conquered the Germanic tribes that no one from Rome could previously conquer.
 - Once his enemies were defeated, he demanded that they convert and be baptised. Anyone who didn’t would be killed.
 - This was NOT sanctioned by the church.
 - Charlemagne was walking in a mixture of light and darkness
- How do you confront an emperor with absolute power?
 - God had a man for that era.



(b) Alcuin of York (735-804AD)

- He was an adviser to the emperor
 - Historians say he was “the most influential Christian of his time that no-one has heard of.”
 - He persuaded Charlemagne that the Gospel has to be given and received freely
- Are we walking in semi-darkness and so pervert the truth?



(c) Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill (1946 – present)

- Recently told Russian soldiers who are being called up to fight against Ukraine: *“He (Russian soldier) sacrifices himself for others and so we believe that this sacrifice washes away all the sins he has committed”.*



4. What's your cause?

- How do I know what cause is pure?
- Can a just cause cleanse me?

1 John 1:7 *But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*

- Walk in the light as He is in the light
 - Ask: What would Jesus do?
- Fellowship with one another
 - Safety in numbers
- Blood of Jesus
 - Purifies
 - Cleanses with antiseptic
- It's not what YOU do that purifies; it's what has already been done on the cross.

5. Keep on the Right Track

1 John 1:8-9 *If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

- With confession, He will:
 - Demonstrate His faithful love
 - Demonstrate justice by counting our sins paid for by Christ
 - Forgive us every sin confessed
 - Continue a deeper work of cleansing from all aspects of sin's defilement.