

## Sunday Oct 2, 2022: Walk in the Light

Recap of last week:

Vs 1 - 4 Intro: John is witnessing to the fact of the Incarnation of Christ (the God Man) and to the message of the Gospel. He is speaking to believers and he is laying a foundation for having a relationship with God in our lives.

Now we are working on some Basic Principles of Fellowship with God.

Vs 5 - 6:

1 God is Light in Him there is no darkness (divine nature, perfect holiness and righteousness)

2. God exposes sin and lights our path. Psalm 119:105 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

3 In Him there is no darkness (sin, imperfection). God is set apart from the darkness. By virtue of being light, he cannot be in relationship with darkness.

4. If we are in the darkness (denying our sin or living in sin), we cannot be in relationship with the God. What is sin? Anything not done in faith in God.

5 if we claim we are in relationship with God yet are denying our sin, then we are lying and don't have the truth (God's Word) in us.

So let's pick up here:

1. **Vs 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, purifies us from all sin.

a) Positionally, we are made righteous In Christ at the moment of salvation, but experientially, believers can choose to live their whole lives in the darkness.

b) But if we walk in the light: In contrast to walking in the darkness we have a choice to walk in the light

(1) This is a volitional choice.

(2) This is to believers not unbelievers.

(3) Only believers can walk in the light because only believers have been given the righteousness of God.

c) walk in the light

(1)

(2) Obey the leading of the Spirit

(a) This can only be done through putting our trust in the Holy Spirit. Col 2:6

(3) Live in obedience to the Word (God's will)

(a) Which implies we know the Word

- (4) Remain in fellowship with God - This includes prayer
- d) As he (Jesus Christ) is in the light
- (1) We can't match Christ's sinless perfection, but we can be obedient to the truth (walk in the light) through the power and leading of the Spirit.
- e) We have fellowship with one another
- (1) "One another" is referencing the two parties from the beginning of the sentence "if we claim to have fellowship with him".
  - (2) One another is referring to we (believers) and him (God).
  - (3) Fellowship: association, community, communion
    - (a) There is a relationship aspect to this, an intimacy
- f) When we are walking in the light (sphere of righteousness, filled and submitting to the will of the Spirit, in faith) we have fellowship (an intimate communion) with God.
- g) And the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
- (1) God cleanses us at salvation. He will never bring us into condemnation for our sins. We receive forgiveness of all sins. (cf. **Romans 8:1**; **1 Corinthians 6:11**; **Ephesians 1:7**). - Positionally we are eternally sanctified in Christ.
  - (2) However, we need continual cleansing from the defilement that sinful daily living brings because it hinders our fellowship with God. Ref: Dr. Constables Expository Notes
  - (3) Jesus washing the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper.
    - (a) John 13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." **8** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." **9** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" **10** Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet;

their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.

(4) When we are walking in the light, we are cleansed from the daily sin in our lives because of the Christ's death (blood of Christ).

(5) When we are walking in the darkness (as believers), we are still saved from the penalty of sin (whole body is clean), but we have broken the relationship with God (our feet need washed).

(a) Positional Sanctification: We are set apart from the penalty of sin. - Enabled by Christ's work on the Cross

(b) Experiential Sanctification: We are set apart from the power of sin (walking in the light)

(i) Enabled by Christ's work on the Cross.

h) This is a moment by moment decision to trust (walk) with God. To trust him, to obey him, to follow him.

2. Vs .8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

a) First: We have a sin nature and we are totally depraved.

(1) That does not go away until we are face to face with our Lord. - Ultimate Sanctification: Set apart from the presence of sin.

(2) Even when we are walking in the light, we have a sin nature and the work of Christ has paid for us to be set free from that bondage.

(3) We are set apart from the power of the sin nature when we are walking in the Spirit but the OSN is still very much in our DNA.

b) Second: If we think that we have reached sinless perfection in our daily walk, we deceive ourselves.

(1) You would think this is an obvious statement, but how many of us deceive ourselves all the time.

(2) Let's remember that sin is anything that is not done in faith.

(3) Just because we are not committing some overt or mental sin, doesn't mean we are not in sin.

(a) Gossip, Jealousy, Arrogance, Laziness, Deceit,

(b) What about righteous anger: James 1:19-20.

(c) Ignoring the leading of the Spirit.

- (d) Doing good for our own glory.
- c) When the truth (God's Word) is in us, we will clearly see our own depravity
  - (1) The Spirit and the Word will convict us of sin even when we are not conscious of it.
  - (2) The Word points us to the power source for controlling our sin. The Spirit.
  - (3) The Spirit motivates us to walk in the light and to obey God's Word.
- d) If we are, at any time declaring ourselves to be without sin, then we are ignoring the Word of God.
- 3. So what do we do when we find ourselves in the darkness?
- 4. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.
  - a) If: If we confess our sins (and we should)
    - (1) In view of verse 7 and 8, God's light (truth, word) makes clear to us our sin nature and when we are in sin (walking in the darkness)
    - (2) And when we are in sin, we are to confess these failures pointed out to us by the conviction of the Spirit and the Word of God.
    - (3) Confess: The Greek word translated "confess" (*homologeō*) literally means to say the same thing (Thayers). Confessing therefore means saying about our sins what God says about them, namely, that they are indeed sins, offenses against Him that break our relationship.
      - (a) God calls on us to acknowledge, agree with Him, say the same thing about our breaking of faith (sins) in Him. That we have made an offense against Him.
      - (b) Some would say that we need to list our sins, or grieve our sins, feel sorry for them, promise to not do them again
      - (c) In the text, I don't see any requirement for making a list of specific sins, but I also don't see anything prohibiting it. I think that there can be a specific acknowledgment of what exactly was

done against God as part of acknowledging our offense.

- (d) In the same way, I don't see a requirement or prohibition against an emotional response when acknowledging our offense against God. If we commit an offense against someone that we dearly love, there would very likely be an emotional response to acknowledging that.
  - (e) I believe that we only diminish Christ's work on the cross when we think that listing, feeling sorry, or being emotional in some way increases the cleansing work that Christ has already accomplished.
  - (f) But what this verse is saying is that if we want to maintain a relationship with God, we need to understand that we are sinners, that we do fail and that when we fail, we need to acknowledge that failure and understand that we have committed an offense against the holy, righteous God.
  - (g) Only then can we turn back to God and place our faith in the Spirit thus begin walking again in the light.
- (4) Then: He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- (a) As believers, why do we need to have forgiveness of sin if we received forgiveness of sin at salvation?
    - (i) Eph 1: 7 - **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
  - (b) Positionally in Christ, we have received forgiveness of sin as part of our salvation.
    - (i) This is eternal.
  - (c) Experientially, we still defile ourselves through sin.
  - (d) We never lose our position in Christ, but we do break our relationship with God in time. We begin to walk in the darkness.

- (e) The only way for us to have a relationship with God is to walk in the Light with Him.
  - (f) When we are living in sin, a barrier is created between Righteous God and defiled, yet eternally saved man.
  - (g) If we don't accept that we are sinning against God, and return to walking in the light, then that relationship remains broken.
    - (i) We are being conformed to the world
  - (h) When we admit we are sinning against God (not trusting God) and go back to walking in the light (putting our trust in the Spirit), God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
    - (i) His justice has already been satisfied by the work of Christ
    - (ii) Our sins are already forgiven
    - (iii) Based on this, when we put our faith back in Him, he is faithful to restore that relationship on the basis that we have been fully cleansed through Christ's work on the Cross
    - (iv) And since all sins are already forgiven (his justice is satisfied with the work of Christ), in His grace, he wipes away the defilement and we are welcome in his presence. (walking in the Light)
- b) Vs 10 Else: If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.
- (1) When the Spirit convicts us and yet we claim we are not sinning,
  - (2) We are calling God a liar
  - (3) God makes it really clear when we are following Him and trusting the Spirit and when we are not.
    - (a) For those with ears to hear and eyes to see.
    - (b) In today's culture, it is very easy to justify our actions with false doctrines of oneness and inclusion, but the Spirit is the one who directs our ways.

(c) We are sinners and if we choose to justify our own sin, then we are standing before God and calling Him a liar.

(d) Even if we have a ton of Doctrine and Bible knowledge, if we are not responding to the Spirit in faith, we are in sin, in the darkness.

(e) We can be Bible scholars and still walk in darkness.

5. **1John 2:1** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

a) God's grace in providing a means of restoration should not be treated as a license to sin.

(1) The more sin abounds the more grace abounds.

(2) What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means!

b) Confession is not designed as a license to do what we want and then wash it all away with confession.

c) Also, knowing that we will all sin, is not a justification for choosing sin. There is no self justification for sin that stands before the judge.

d) How many of us have done this? We know full well that what we are about to do is a sin, but we rationalize it and do it anyway knowing that all we have to do is confess it and turn back to walking in the Spirit.

(1) I know that for a big part of my life, I used confession as a check the box to make sure what I did Saturday night was covered on Sunday Morning.

(2) I think that is one of the dangers of confession just being a listing of your sins.

(3) When I stand or kneel before God and acknowledge that what I did was an offense to my Savior and my heavenly Father, it should make me stop and think about the grace I have been given and the sacrifice Jesus made for me on the cross.

(4) It should be a motivation not to sin.

- e) We are called to live our life glorifying God in everything we do. If we are choosing sin and justifying the choice by knowing we can confess it away, then do we really understand the offense we are making against God or even more, do we recognize the sacrifice that Christ made for us?
6. So whether we blatantly choose to sin against God or we inadvertently sin and don't even know it, when we recognize that we are not walking by faith in the Spirit, Jesus Christ, is our advocate to the Father on our behalf. This is the same term (Paraketos) as is used about the Holy Spirit. He is our attorney, counselor, helper, counselor.
- a) Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father.
  - b) Jesus Christ is our high priest
  - c) He intercedes on our behalf
    - (1) It's not that God the Father has forgotten we are forgiven, but every time we sin, the justice of God can look to His right and Christ can call out, they are mine Father.
    - (2) The justice is satisfied with the payment made and the sin is forgiven (work already accomplished on the cross)
  - d) and just as Jesus prayed for his disciples, he advocates for us to the Father (John 17)
    - (1) That our faith will not falter.
    - (2) Protect us from the evil one
    - (3) Set us apart from the world (Sanctify)
    - (4) That we may be one as God the Father and Son are one (restore our relationship)
7. Vs. 2: On what basis can Christ advocate for us?
- a) He is the Righteous One
  - b) Jesus paid the ransom for our sins
  - c) And the sins of the whole world (unlimited atonement)
  - d) He and only he was the acceptable sacrifice
8. So in closing this section: The basic principle of Fellowship summarized:
- a) Application Summary of vs 5 - 1 John 2:2:



- (1) In God there is no Darkness (sin) only Light (The Divine Nature of God)
- (2) As believers, we are to walk in the light in our daily lives by trusting the leading of the Spirit in all things.
- (3) When we move away from the light into darkness (through sin), our relationship with God is broken.
- (4) The Spirit and the Word will convict us of our sin.
- (5) We are to acknowledge that we are in sin and have committed an offense against God and go back to trusting the leading of the Spirit.
- (6) Because Christ already paid for all of our sins and we are forgiven, then God is faithful to restore our relationship with Him.
- (7) Confess, Repent, Trust...
  - (a) Each of these are a blessing provided by God's grace that a loving God has put in place for us to be restored to a relationship with Him.
  - (b) Every one of these things is done through the conviction and power of the Holy Spirit. This is not works but grace.
- (8) If we choose not to confess our sin and keep walking outside the light, we have no relationship with God.
- (9) Do not choose to sin, but know with confidence, that if we do sin, Christ has paid the price for all sin.

9. Let's read Psalm 51:

- a) David's Psalm after his affair with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah.