



# Walking in the Light

(1 John 1:5-10)



# Disclaimers

## 1. Our sin separates us from a Holy God

- *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”* (Isa. 59:2)

# Disclaimers

## 2. Grace is not divine toleration of sin

- Graces teaches us to renounce sin and live godly lives
  - Titus 2:11-12
- Grace provides a way of escape from the wages of sin
  - For the alien sinner – Acts 2:38
  - For the erring Christian – Acts 8:22
- So called “grace” that coexists with *lawlessness* is a perversion of God’s grace
  - Jude 4

# Disclaimers

3. **The Holy Spirit says there are 2 distinct ways to “walk”**
  - “walking in light” is not the same as “walking in darkness”
  - A child of God who “sins”  $\neq$  unrepentant “sinner”
    - “Nobody’s perfect” does not mean “we’re all the same”
  - If we say there is no difference, then we are effectively saying that there is only 1 way to “walk”
    - We make the Holy Spirit to be a liar
    - We hinder the gospel and give false hope to the unrepentant
    - We rob ourselves of the blessed assurance of walking in the light

# Disclaimers

## 4. There is no profit in wrangling over hypotheticals

- Faith is derived from what is revealed, not deduced from what is not revealed
- Don't let what we can't know interfere with what we can

# Light (5)

- as an appellation of God, i.e. as by nature... spotless, holy:

**1 John 1:5**

- the light by which the true life is gained, John 8:12, Romans 13:12, Ephesians 5:9; to live agreeably to saving wisdom, 1 John 1:7; to be imbued with saving wisdom, to continue devoted to it, to persevere in keeping it, 1 John 2:9f

-Thayer's Greek Lexicon

# God is Light (5)

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation...” (Ps. 27:1)*

*“Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.”  
(Isa. 2:5)*

*“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.” (Jn. 8:12)*

*“He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light...” (1 Tim. 6:15-16)*

*“... in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1 Jn. 1:5)*

# Darkness (5)

- Physical darkness, John 6:17
- Of secrecy, in general, whether what is done therein is good or evil, Matt. 10:27; Luke 12:3
- Of spiritual or moral “darkness,” emblematic of sin, as a condition of moral or spiritual depravity, Matt. 4:16; John 1:5; 8:12; 12:35, 46; 1 John 1:5; 2:8-9

-Vine's Expository Dictionary

# “walk” (6)

- To “walk around, i.e. in a complete circuit (going "full circle")
- **Usage:** I walk... (in an ethical sense): I conduct my life, live.
- to live (common in Paul and John), i. e. to regulate one's life, to conduct oneself

-Thayer's Greek Lexicon

- “the whole round of the activities of the individual life” -Vine
- NASB Translation
  - behave (2), conduct ourselves (1), conduct yourselves (1), leading...life (1), leads...life (1), prowls around (1), so occupied (1), walk (50), walk about (1), walk around (2), walked (7), walking (21), walking around (1)

# “walk”

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked” (Ps. 1:1)

“Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders...” (Mark 7:5)

“...walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind” (Eph. 4:17)

“I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father.” (2 Jn. 4)

# “walking in darkness”

*“to deliver you from the way of evil... from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness.”*  
(Prov. 2:12-13)

*“But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”* (John 11:10)

*“Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.”* (John 12:35)

*“for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.”* (Eph. 5:3-8)



# walking in darkness (6)

- To “walk in darkness” is to live, lead or conduct one’s life in the practice of trespasses and sins, stumbling in immorality, impurity and filthiness according to the course of this world
- to leave the paths of uprightness, to fellowship lawlessness and return to what we once left behind
- to not practice the truth
- We lie if we claim to have fellowship with God



# Light (7)

***“light”***

- as an appellation of God, i.e. as by nature... spotless, holy:

1 John 1:5

- the light by which the true life is gained, John 8:12, Romans 13:12, Ephesians 5:9; **to live** agreeably to saving wisdom,  
1 John 1:7; to be imbued with saving wisdom, **to continue**  
**devoted to it** **to persevere in keeping it** 1 John 2:9f

-Thayer's Greek Lexicon

# **“walking in the light”**

*“for we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7)*

*“... walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called” (Eph. 4:1)*

*“and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us...” (Eph. 5:2)*

*“so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col. 1:10)*

*“... as you have received Christ Jesus... so walk in Him” (Col. 2:6)*



# If we walk in the light (7-8)

- We have fellowship with God
- We have fellowship with one another
- The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin
  - If we walk in the light (7)
  - If we confess sins (9)
- If we deny that we sin
  - We are not being honest with ourselves
  - We lack understanding of the truth



# If we walk in the light (9)

- Walking in the light, we still sin
  - We don't want to (John doesn't want us to - 2:1a)
  - But knowledge of truth brings awareness of our imperfections
  - But, we're counting on God's mercy not our perfection
- We don't make a practice of sin
  - We confess our sins
  - He is faithful and righteous to forgive us
  - He cleanses us from all unrighteousness



# If we walk in the light (10)

- He knows we are not perfect
- To claim otherwise is to contradict God
- His word tells us we “all have sinned”
- His word tells us to trust in Him, not in self
  - His Son is our Advocate (2:1b)



# walking in the light (7-10)

- To “walk in light” does not demand perfection
  - Not even perfect recollection of our sins



***“Who can discern his errors?  
Acquit me of hidden faults.”***

-Psalm 19:12

# walking in the light (7-10)

- To “walk in light” does not demand perfection
  - Nor perfect recollection of our sins (Ps. 19:12)
    - We trust in His mercy **not** our memory
- It demands we acknowledge and confess our sins
  - If we refuse to acknowledge our sin...
  - If we refuse to confess our sin...
  - Then, we choose to practice sin
- When we choose to practice sin, we choose...



*“...what fellowship has light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14)*

- When we choose to practice sin, we choose...  
to walk in **Darkness!**



# walking in the light (7-10)

- To “walk in light” is to live, lead or conduct one’s life in the practice of righteousness, in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, and of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God
- When we “stumble” we confess and pray for forgiveness
  - Trusting in our faithful Advocate
- All of that is what it means to be **walking in the light**



**Are you walking in the light?**



