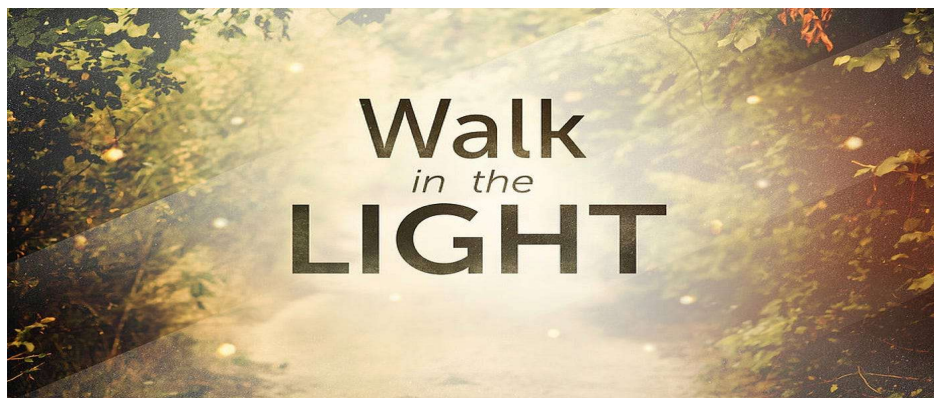


Walking in the Light

1 John 1.5-2.2

First John is all about fellowship with God. John had experienced it, and wanted us to know it, too. How can we? John begins by establishing the basics of fellowship with God. What does “walking in the light” entail? What does it produce? How can we sustain it? Let’s see...

1. God is light – in Him there is no darkness at all! (1.5)
2. The condition for fellowship: Walking in the light (1.6-7)
3. Maintaining fellowship: How to keep in the light (1.8-2.2)



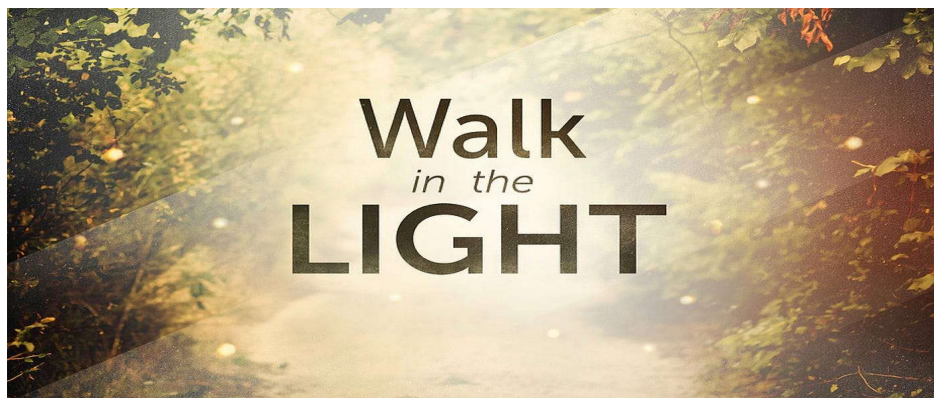
1. John begins his first letter by telling us why he is writing: He wants us to have fellowship with God like he and the apostles have had as a result of their time with Jesus. It’s not enough for them to have it: He wants us to have it, too! But we can’t be in fellowship with God if we’re not ‘where He is’, so He begins by telling us that “God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (v5). What does “light” indicate about the character of God? See Gen. 1.3-4; John 1.1-5, 9-10; 3.19-21; 8.12; 9.5; 12.46; Eph. 5.7-14; 1 Pet. 2.9; 1 Jn. 2.8-11. What does “darkness” refer to? See Acts 26.18; 2 Cor. 4.3-4; Eph. 6.12; Col. 1.13. What other references to ‘light’ and ‘darkness’ can you think of in Scripture?
2. What does it mean for us to “walk in the light”? Since God is light (absolutely holy, without sin; v5), and He is “in the light” (v7), this suggests that it is possible for us to ‘live in God’s presence’! When do you feel totally ‘at one’ with God? What does it mean for us to “walk in the darkness”? While we’re still subject to our sinful nature in our lives here on earth, what actions can we take, and what habits can we form, to help us walk *more* in the light, and *less* in darkness? See Gal. 5.16-25; 1 Thess. 5.16-22; 2 Tim. 2.15; James 1.21-25.
3. According to 1 John 1.8 and 10, how do we tend to respond when we become aware of our sin? Why is this so? What misconception about God do we often believe? What untruth about God did Satan deceive Eve into believing in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3.4-5)? How did Jesus characterize Satan? How does he counterfeit God’s good desires for His creation to this day (2 Cor. 11.14-15)?
4. When we become conscious of sin in our lives, we should confess it (1 Jn. 1.9). “Confess” translates the Greek word *homologeō*, which literally means “to say the same thing.” Classical Greek used it in legal contracts to mean an “agreement”. Here, it means “agreeing with God” about my sin. What happens when we do this? What two things does God do for us? Why does John write this to us (see 2.1)? Christ’s death on the cross is full payment for our sins; for who else’s sins is it full payment (2.2)? Is this ‘good news,’ or what?!!

Walking in the Light

1 John 1.5-2.2

First John is all about fellowship with God. John had experienced it, and wanted us to know it, too. How can we? John begins by establishing the basics of fellowship with God. What does “walking in the light” entail? What does it produce? How can we sustain it? Let’s see...

1. God is light – in Him there is no darkness at all! (1.5)
2. The condition for fellowship: Walking in the light (1.6-7)
3. Maintaining fellowship: How to keep in the light (1.8-2.2)



1. John begins his first letter by telling us why he is writing: He wants us to have fellowship with God like he and the apostles have had as a result of their time with Jesus. It’s not enough for them to have it: He wants us to have it, too! But we can’t be in fellowship with God if we’re not ‘where He is’, so He begins by telling us that “God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (v5). What does “light” indicate about the character of God? See Gen. 1.3-4; John 1.1-5, 9-10; 3.19-21; 8.12; 9.5; 12.46; Eph. 5.7-14; 1 Pet. 2.9; 1 Jn. 2.8-11. What does “darkness” refer to? See Acts 26.18; 2 Cor. 4.3-4; Eph. 6.12; Col. 1.13. What other references to ‘light’ and ‘darkness’ can you think of in Scripture?
2. What does it mean for us to “walk in the light”? Since God is light (absolutely holy, without sin; v5), and He is “in the light” (v7), this suggests that it is possible for us to ‘live in God’s presence’! When do you feel totally ‘at one’ with God? What does it mean for us to “walk in the darkness”? While we’re still subject to our sinful nature in our lives here on earth, what actions can we take, and what habits can we form, to help us walk *more* in the light, and *less* in darkness? See Gal. 5.16-25; 1 Thess. 5.16-22; 2 Tim. 2.15; James 1.21-25.
3. According to 1 John 1.8 and 10, how do we tend to respond when we become aware of our sin? Why is this so? What misconception about God do we often believe? What untruth about God did Satan deceive Eve into believing in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3.4-5)? How did Jesus characterize Satan? How does he counterfeit God’s good desires for His creation to this day (2 Cor. 11.14-15)?
4. When we become conscious of sin in our lives, we should confess it (1 Jn. 1.9). “Confess” translates the Greek word *homologeō*, which literally means “to say the same thing.” Classical Greek used it in legal contracts to mean an “agreement”. Here, it means “agreeing with God” about my sin. What happens when we do this? What two things does God do for us? Why does John write this to us (see 2.1)? Christ’s death on the cross is full payment for our sins; for whose else’s sins is it full payment (2.2)? Is this ‘good news,’ or what?!!