

Title: Walking In The Light

Text: I John 1:5-7

I John chapter 1, please. I John chapter 1 on the subject: WALKING IN THE LIGHT. I John chapter 1 beginning with Vs 5...(READ Vs 5-7)

PRAYER

Now, in our last time together, in the first four verses, we learned something about the meaning of the word "FELLOWSHIP." "Fellowship" means: THAT WHICH WE SHARE IN COMMON." *According to these verse* ~~And that which we share in common, according to Vs 2, is ETERNAL LIFE. And this eternal life is in Jesus Christ.~~ *there are certain things that we share in common*

~~So~~, John is telling us here in these first few verses that Fellowship involves a PERSON....Jesus Christ...It involves a possession...ETERNAL LIFE... And it involves a position. My position is with the Father and with the son. And as a result of this position we have fellowship with one another .

You see, John is writing this letter so that we will know that we ~~have~~ *are* ~~eternal~~ *sured* life. And his desire is that we be in a relationship with Christ whereby we may know the joy of our fellowship with God. John says in Vs 4, "that our joy maybe full or complete.

You see, to be really happy, you must know where you stand with God. If there is insecurity in your life as to where you are going to spend "eternit you cannot have the sustaining joy that God wants you to have.

Many people, today, are very insecure. We live on the brink of everything that we have been living for will be totally ruined by either death or war or crime or whatever. } And God is saying through John that you can have sustaining joy. You can have the kind of joy that last and does not fly away after the weekend is over. You can have joy if you know where you stand in your relationship to God. That real lasting fellowship is possible with God through Jesus Christ who guarantees that fellowship by giving to us eternal life. If you have accepted Jesus as your Saviour, and you are believing in Him, and trusting Him, and I am doing the same, then you and I have fellowship regardless of whether or not ee ever get together for a time of fun/ Because real feellowship is something we share in common...namely Jesus Christ.

Now, we come to Vs 5.....Taking off naturally from this idea of fellowship with God, because immediately in a Christians mind he thinks of SIN as the one thing that will stand in the way of fellowship with God. And of course that is right. SIN DOES STAND IN THE WAY OF MEANINGFUL FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. So, it is natural that John should, now, deal with this problem of sin.

<sup>So</sup>~~Now~~, please notice in your text the little word "if"...The word appears in Vs 6..7..8..9..10..and Vs 1 of chapter 2. Do you see the word "if?"... O.K...In Vereses 6,8, and 10, we have three problems presented in relationship to SIN....Then in verses 7,9, and 1 of chapter 2, we find the solutions to those problems. Vs 7,9, and 1 of chapter 2 are the solutions to the problems presented in verses 6, 8, and 10. And that formulates exactly what God is trying to say to us in these vereses.

<sup>But</sup>  
(1C) ~~the~~ first of all, in Vs 5 of chapter 1, you have a FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE. And this principle must be firmly planted in your mind, if you are to understand these problems of sin ~~and fellowship~~ and their solutions. Vs 5 of chapter 1 is a FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE. And it is simple this: God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

Now, if you have some idea that God is like you or like me, you are wrong. God doesn't even know what sin is like. It doesn't mean he hasn't experienced our temptations. For when God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ "who knew no sin, yet, he was tempted in all points even as we are." <sup>yet</sup> He was without sin. Totally apart from sin. But, he knows what you go through. He knows the avenues through which you are tempted to sin.

But, never mistake the person of God. God is light and in him is no darkness at all. There is not one tinit of sin in the life of God. God is apart from it as the Bible clearly teaches. He has no part in sin. God is light. And the useage of the word "light" throughout the entire Bible is "MORAL PURITY." God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

(1D) Now, John gives us the source of this principle. Vs 5: "We have heard this from Him." This is not John's opinion. It is not my opinion. It came from Jesus Christ, himself. "We heard this from Him." This takes us back to all that was said in Vs 1 and 2 of this chapter. "That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we beheld and our hands handled." That was the Word of Life and it was manifested, it was put on public display and <sup>made known</sup> manifested to us.

Then, Vs 5, says: "And this is the message we heard from Him." Jesus gave us this message. That God is light and in him is no darkness at all.



I would like you to turn to the Gospel of John, if you would, please. Again we find a remarkable similarity between chapter one of the Gospel of John and chapter one of the Epistle of John.

The Gospel of John chapter 1 beginning at Vs 4. "In Him was life." Who is the "HIM?".....The "him" is called "the Word.".....

(Read Vs 1-3)

Alright, who is the "Word?".....Look at Vs 14: "And the <sup>Word</sup> became flesh, and dwelt among us."...The Word is ~~Christ~~ <sup>Jesus</sup>. "In Him, Vs 4 says, was life; and the life was the light of men."

I want you to see something, here. ~~Actually John 1:4 would be a fitting title to put over I John chapter one.~~ You have two words that are important: "LIFE" and "LIGHT". It says "in him was life."

In Verse 1-3 of I John, the discussion is about the fact that "eternal life is in Christ." That is what causes "FELLOWSHIP". We possess eternal life. "In him was life." But notice, <sup>Vs 4</sup> that life goes a step further. "The life was the light of men." It is only the light of Christ, this eternal life, which he puts into your life the moment you accept Him as Lord and Saviour, it is only that life that can bring true light. And cause you to see things in the right perspective. A person without Christ in his life cannot see as he ought to see..... *I was blind - now I see*

In fact the Bible describes his mind as being "blinded." And the Bible also says his heart is dark - darkened - he cannot see. "Blessed are the pure in heart, Jesus said, for they shall see God." You need a pure heart to see God and to understand him. "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. Now, notice Vs 5....

(Read 5-9)

A person's capacity to even see things was given to him by God. If any person knows the difference between light and darkness, he got it from God...Not from his own abilities.....

(Read Vs 10-13)

*James*

*Jews*

*OK*

Now, in Him was life and that life was light. Now, come back to 1st John, please.....John says that this "Foundational Principle" we got from God. That is the source of the principle.

(2D) The Substance of the principle is this: That God is light. In other words, it is part of his nature. He is light. He is also love, as I John tells us in chapter 4. He is, also, righteous, as we will learn in chapter 2. These are all parts of God's nature. It is what he is. God is light.

(3D) The Scope of this is very clear. "In Him is no darkness at all."

Let me point out just one thing about that phrases: There is a double negative in the Greek language. Now, when that happens in English it is bad news. But in the Greek it is O.K....And they do it for emphases. It is always used to point out a contrast. Remember: this is a foundational principle and please bear with me because any sense of our sin and what to do with it must, first of all, begin with the principle that God is who he says he is. He is light and there is not one trace of darkness in him. NO, NOT AT ALL...if I may use the double negative for emphases. And the holyness of God, his moral purity, should make every one of us carefully examine ourselves as to how it is at all possible to even communicate with such a God. Because we are born in sin. And that which separates us from God is the fact that HE IS LIGHT AND THERE IS NO DARKNESS IN HIM AT ALL.

All <sup>of us</sup> have sinned. Why?...Because we have all come short of God's glory. And even in the good things that we do, they do not carry weight with God who says all of our good deeds are like filthy rags in his sight. We are saved by grace through faith and not by our good deeds least anyone should boast. GOD IS LIGHT AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL.....'

*END*  
(2C) Now, we are talking about Fellowship. And sin is the one thing that stands in the way of fellowship with God. God send his son, Jesus Christ, into the world so that we who are sinful, can have fellowship with him.

*\** But how can this be? John tells us how this can happen by sharing with us three fundamental problems that faces every christian. THREE PROBLEMS...

We will look at the first problem today. The other two (next week). *That's it.*

(1D) This first problem is found in Vs 6 and it deals with the issue of Position in Christ. Look at this very carefully. Vs 6 says: "If we say that we have fellowship with Him." Now, remember that fellowship is having eternal life. It is having a position whereby you are with the Father and with the Son, according to verses 1-3.....And the truth is that if you have received Christ as your saviour you have fellowship and eternal life.

So, notice, in this problem of our Position, John shares with us a claim that some people will make. Some people will say, "we have fellowship with God." To put it in simple language. Some people say or claim that they are christians...You see, we are talking about Position....

Now, notice, John gives to us an example that exists in that life. This person says he has fellowship with God, <sup>IN TRUTH</sup> but he walks in darkness. And the word "walk" means "constant habit of life." He says he is a christian, but as a habit of life he is walking in darkness. This person claims to be a christian. To claim by way of position that he has fellowship. And yet, the actual condition of his life is this: This person is walking in darkness. It is his habit of life. Do you know of anybody that fits this discription? I am sure if I ask you to raise your hands...all hands would go up.

Now, John wants to make it clear that the person who says, by way of his position, that he has fellowship with christ, that he has eternal life, but, as a habit of life he is walking in darkness....HERE IS JOHN'S CONCLUSTION---Vs 6: "We lie and do not practice the truth." We lie and our life is a lie because we do not live according to what we confess. Jesus said, "I am the truth." All truth is in Christ. And if you are not practicing the truth, you are not in christ. You are not saved.

In this letter, John deals wit habits of life. If you don't get that straight in your mind, you are going to have problems understanding this book. He deals with habits of life. He is not talking about the fellow that you and I knows, maybe ourselves, who goes out and sins...who commits a sin...That is not under discussion, here, at all.

John, in this <sup>View</sup> ~~letter~~, is painting two pictures. In the one picture is found those people who as a habit of life are in Christ. Oh, they sin because we all sin. And John tells us what to do about it. But, you see, as a habit of life they are applying the principles of God's word and doing their best to practice the truth.

In the other picture, are those who as a ~~habit~~ habit of life are walking in sin. They might have make some profession, acting and talking like they are in christ, but if they are walking in darkness, John's conclusion is! "they are liars if they say they have fellowship with God.

Oh, my friends, it is dangerous for anyone of us to assume that we are in christ, if as a habit of life we are walking in darkness. John says that we are liars and we are not practicing the truth as a habit of life.

So, what is the cure? If this is true of you, no matter what your profession has been, no matter how many people you have told that you believe in Christ. You see, it is easy to believe with the head. You may believe all the facts of the gospel, but as a characteristic of life, you are walking in darkness there is only one cure for you. And that is found in Vs 7: "at If we walkk in the light as He himself is in the light we have fellowship with one another."

Now, many of you have learned <sup>View</sup> John 1:7 from a different standpoint than that which I am giving you now. Most of the misunderstanding of I John 1:7 is based on the fact that we don't know the context. We don't know what fellowship means. In John's <sup>view</sup> ~~idea~~ of fellowship you are either in it and have it as a present possession, or you don't have it. It is not something you bounce in and out off...John's point is that if you walk in the light as he is in the light you will have fellowship with one another. You will share in common that "eternal life."

And here is the blessing: Vs 7: "The blood of Jesus His son cleanses us from all sins. A tremendous privilege is ours by way of position. Oh, my friends, if you have given your life to christ, you don't have to worry anymore about that habit of life of sin. Many people say, I would accept Christ, but you don't know what I am like. I don't think I could ~~live~~ live the christian life. Forget it, God doesn't tell you that you have to live it,

God doesn't ask you to change your life. He knows you can't. He is asking you to change your POSITION. you are now in the world. You are now under Satan's control whether you know it or not. You are walking in darkness.] So, get in the light as Christ is in the light. And here is the added blessing: "The blood of Christ which puts you in this position, keeps you in fellowship with him, and you can enjoy it because the blood of Christ cleanses you from all sins."

And if you would like to be there, in a position where God can take care of you, then, get into the light. You may not be in the light. That may be the problem. The issue, here, is your position.

So, let me review it again with you.....

There is a false claim: Some people say they have fellowship with God. That is ...they claim to be christians. They say they have eternal life. But, the actual condition of their life is that they are living as a habit of life in darkness. And John concludes by saying that they are lying and that they are not practicing as a habit of life the truth.

But, Praise God, he doesn't stop there. He gives us the cure; And he tells those who are making this false claim that they need to get by way of Position into the light--receive Jesus as Saviour---Then you will have joy. You will have fellowship. You will have eternal life. ~~For~~, because the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses you from all sin. It is God's wonderful provision for the problem you are experiencing right now by walking in darkness....



*cont*

HOW DO YOU GET INTO THE LIGHT? By accepting Jesus Christ as your personal lord and saviour. You may be here <sup>today</sup> and you have never made ~~the~~ profession of Faith. You have never ask God to forgive you and ~~to~~ cleans you. Today, will you ask in faith? Will you ask Christ to come into your life. Even though you don't understand all the fine points. Even though you wonder whether God could really ~~do~~ save you? Will you say, I will ~~not~~ trust God to do what he says he will do. Right now, I will receive Christ for what he has already done for me. Ask Him to come into your heart. And the promise of Christ is-- he will.

And Christian friends, are you trying to live the Christian life? How we need to realize that our position is in christ. And we have eternal life and fellowship as a present possession. And our sins have been forgiven - past - present - and future - <sup>For</sup> ~~and~~ we have been cleansed by the Blood of Jesus Christ. *And we have fellowship*

*cont*

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever would believe on him, would not perish, but would have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world would be saved through him."

Believe God - Accept Christ today as your Lord and Savior and the blood of Christ will clease you from all sin.

Shall we pray

FBC/PONTIACVILLE/19 Jan 74

*May God help you to make the decision that you need to make in your life, right now.*