

Title: Walking in the Light

Scripture: I John 1:5-2:6

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I John 1:5-2:6 *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”*

Christ wants to take the image of his son and place it on our lives and let the light of his glory shine underneath us so that we can come out looking like his son. What happens is we get away from God’s light and end up looking nothing like Christ. The emphasis on this scripture is to walk as Christ has walked. We are to model our lives after Christ’s footsteps. We need to know what it looks like to be following in Christ’s footsteps. When we are walking in the light there is nothing that we can hide from God. Here at Faith Free Will Baptist Church we have foundational beliefs. This means that we have the foundation of God’s word to guide us.

There are three things that we need to see from what the apostle John wrote about walking in the light

- 1. We have to have the right attitude about sin:** In these few verses, the word sin was mentioned eight times. This means that sin should be recognized. Sin defined is the deliberate disobedience to the will of God. What should our attitude toward sin be? We should despise it because it’s not of God. God is against sin so we should be too. We need to agree with God. Romans 3:23 says *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”* Many of us have the attitude toward sin as we do with a hot stove as a kid. We were told not to touch it because it’s hot but we just had to do it to find out for ourselves. Just like the stove, we view commands from God as something that we should test just to find out what happens if we break them. John said we should confess our sins to God. This means that we acknowledge that the things we’ve done are sins. John wrote this letter because he was confronting false teachings about the fact that there was no sin and no consequences for sin. If sin was no longer a problem in the life of a Christian then God would have kept quiet about it. We see it so often because no matter how long we are saved, we still struggle with the temptation of sin. Moses became overcome with anger. Peter denied Christ. James and John got jealous. David committed adultery. This doesn’t mean that just because these great men of God sinned that it’s ok for us to do it. It shows us that we can be forgiven. Proverbs 28:13 *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”* In verse 1 of I John 2, it says that we have an advocate with the father: What is an advocate? Someone who fights for us. Christ came to fight for us and our sins. Propitiation is another word to know – it’s a person who takes the place for another. Advocate and propitiation are present-tense words. This means that God is always with us.
- 2. We have to be obedient to our God [have a desire to be obedient to God]:** Your obedience reflects your walk with God. Verses 3, 5, and 6 of I John 2 tell us to command. We should hear his word and act accordingly. Philippians 2:12-13 says *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”* Just because we sing in the choir, own a bible, or drive by a church doesn’t mean we are saved. The more we hear God’s word means that we should be looking at our lives more. If we call ourselves Christians, our obedience to God should set a standard for our lives. Unfortunately the world has set a standard for our lives. Matthew

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16:18 says *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* Christ said **HE** would build the church – not the world. In Genesis 3 we see where the serpent tried everything he could to get Eve to disobey God. The serpent still works in us the same way today. We can’t be obedient to God if we don’t know what he says. Christ said follow me and I will make you fishers of men. Charles Spurgeon once said *“Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God trusts God, and he the trusts God, obeys God.”*

3. **We have to love others:** I John 2:9-11 *“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.”* We see our chief example in Jesus Christ when it comes to love. He loved the people that others wouldn’t even think to go near. Jesus taught us to love those who mistreat us. Even on the cross he said *“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”* –Luke 23:24.

There are three things that we should see about love:

- a. It is Christ’s command that we love others –John 13:35 *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”* Our situations and circumstances shouldn’t affect our love for one another. Our
- b. Love is not a feeling, it’s a lifestyle – Romans 13:8-10 *“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”*
- c. Love is selfless and giving. Love is mercy, grace, and charity – Matthew 7:12 *“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”* We like to claim that man came up with this, but it’s in the word of God. Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

In our walk with Christ, where are we? Are we in the light or in the darkness?