



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 2:9-11

Discerning Light From Darkness

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The Peril of False Claims

1John 2:9 (NASB)
The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

- “The one saying” is how John identifies false teachers and their ideas
- False religious claims always offer apparent benefit
- “Hating” often denotes rejection of someone who should be loved
- “skotia” – “darkness” - is used four times in these verses

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Abiding in the Light

1John 2:10a (NASB)
The one who loves his brother abides in the Light...

- Light is a key attribute of Christ
- Love for fellow Christians is one evidence for regeneration
- Abiding in Christ is abiding in the One who claimed to be the Light of the world (John 8:12)

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Avoiding Needless Offense

1John 2:10b (NASB)

...and there is no cause for **stumbling** in him.

- “Stumbling” is ‘skandalon’ which denoted a “trigger of a trap” meaning here “enticement to ruin”; offense
- The cross is a necessary “scandal” (1Corin. 1:23)
- Since the cross is necessary, we must be careful not to add sinful offense by hating fellow Christians

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The Danger of Walking in Darkness

1John 2:11a (NASB)

But the one who **hates** his brother is in the darkness and **walks in the darkness...**

- Hate toward fellow believers is a symptom of spiritual blindness
- “Walks” is ‘peripateo_’ which denotes a manner of life
- Darkness is the natural preference for fallen humanity (John 3:19)

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Spiritual Blindness

1John 2:11b (NASB)

...and does not know where he is going because the darkness has **blinded his eyes.**

- The blinded stagger around, disoriented
- Those who hate the Christian fellowship are walking blindly in the dark
- Those who grope along will surely stumble

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Implications and Applications

- Walking in the light is a key description of the Christian
- The world hates Christ and His followers so we must not hate fellow Christians
- Spiritual blindness comes to those who harden their hearts against the truth
- Believe in Christ and enter the Light

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Walking in the Light

1John 1:7 (NASB)

...but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- God's nature is pure, holy, spiritual light
- Light for the Christian is derived from God who is light
- By walking according to God's grace and promises we are continually cleansed

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We Must Love Fellow Believers

James 5:20 (NASB)

Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

- Love includes helping wayward Christians back to the truth
- "Let know" is imperative in the Greek
- Bringing an errant Christian back into fellowship is an act of Christian love (1Peter 4:8)

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We Either Love the Truth or Remain Blind

John 9:39 (NASB)

And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that **those who do not see may see**, and that **those who see may become blind.**"

- See John 9:24-39
- Reversal: the blind man was healed both physically and spiritually; the seeing Pharisees become spiritually blind

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Believe in Christ

John 12:46 (NASB)

I have come as Light into the world, so that **everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.**

- We were all in spiritual darkness
- Christ came to bring us into the Light

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The Results of Saving Faith

Acts 26:18 (NASB)

...to open their eyes so that they may turn **from darkness to light** and **from the dominion of Satan to God**, that they may receive **forgiveness of sins** and **an inheritance** among those who have been **sanctified by faith in Me.**

- All this happens through conversion ("turn" is a synonym for repentance)
- Darkness to light; Satan to God, forgiveness of sins, eternal inheritance, and sanctification

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