


God Is Light, So Reject Darkness

1 John 1:5-6

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by Bob DeWaay



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

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The Message of Eyewitnesses

1John 1:5a (ESV)
This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you. . .

- The apostles tangible experience with Christ led to their authoritative message
- Jesus commissioned them to preach the gospel
- John emphasizes the reality of the incarnation
- **This message is true** – Ephesians 1:13

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God Is Light

1John 1:5b (ESV)
. . . that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all.

- This statement about God’s nature has moral implications
- Moral and spiritual darkness is incompatible with God’s nature
- God is true, glorious and utterly holy
- **God is light** is stated positively and negatively

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A False Claim Exposed

1John 1:6 (ESV)

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

- "If we say" is John's way of exposing the false teachers
- "Walking in darkness" means "living sinfully"
- It says literally "not doing the truth" which is a Hebraic idiom for "not obeying God"
- True fellowship precludes living in sin

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Implications and Applications

- God is light in His essential nature
- The apostles witnessed Christ's life and words as true light
- True fellowship is incompatible with spiritual darkness
- To be converted is to be rescued from darkness

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God's Essential Nature Is Light

1Timothy 6:16 (ESV)

who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

- Self-existence from eternity past is uniquely attributed to God
- Exodus 33:20 – God is infinitely holy and no man can see Him and live
- God is transcendent but has made Himself known in His Son Jesus Christ

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The Apostles Saw Christ as Light

Isaiah 49:6 (NASB)

He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Acts 13:47 (NASB)

"For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, That You may bring salvation to the end of the earth.'" (see Luke 2:32; Acts 1:8)

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Christian Fellowship Is Incompatible with Darkness

John 8:12 (NASB)

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 12:46 (NASB)

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

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Rescued From Darkness

Colossians 1:13 (NASB)

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

- John 3:19-21
- 2Corinthians 4:6

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**To Walk in Light
Is to Walk in Truth**

Ephesians 5:8, 9 (NASB)
for you were formerly darkness, but now you
are Light in the Lord; **walk as children of Light**
(for **the fruit of the Light** consists in all
goodness and righteousness and **truth**),

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A Description of Conversion

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
Charles Wesley 1738**

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