

  
Gospel of Grace  
FELLOWSHIP

**1 John 1:7-8**  
**Walking in the Light  
and Rejecting Darkness**  
*by Bob DeWaay*  
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**False and True Alternatives**

- 1Jn 1:6 "If we say" . . . . Fellowship but darkness
- 1Jn 1:7 "But if" . . . . . Walk in the light
- 1Jn 1:8 "If we say" . . . . . No sin
- 1Jn 1:9 "But if" . . . . . Confess our sins
- 1Jn 1:10 "If we say" . . . . . Have not sinned
- 1Jn 2:1-2 "If sin" . . . . . Advocate and propitiation

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**Fellowship in the Light**

**1John 1:7a (ESV)**  
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,  
**we have fellowship with one another . . .**

- To walk in the light is to walk in faith and trust in God who is light
- Whatever light we have is derived as a communicable attribute of God
- **True fellowship** comes from obedient faith
- This **shared common life** is not dependant on our past, ethnicity, or common secular interests

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### The Cleansing Blood of Jesus

**1John 1:7b (ESV)**

... and **the blood** of Jesus his Son **cleanses us** from all sin.

- **“Cleanses”** is *katharizo\_* in the present cont. tense
- The cleansing is from all sin and every sin
- Unlike the OT sacrifices, this cleansing is decisive
- The blood signifies the laid down life of Christ

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### A False Claim of Sinlessness

**1John 1:8 (ESV)**

If **we say we have no sin**, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- The false teachers claimed to be sinless
- The false teachers were **deluded by self-deception**
- This is a deliberate refusal to face the facts
- If they had been walking in the light, they would know their sin and need for cleansing

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### Implications and Applications

- We truly need one another
- God offers decisive purgation through the blood of Jesus
- Those who claim sinlessness lie to themselves and to God

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**Christians Need One Another**

**1Corinthians 12:20-21 (NASB)**  
But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye **cannot say** to the hand, **“I have no need of you”**; or again the head to the feet, **“I have no need of you.”**

- It is wrong to say to fellow Christians **“I have no need of you”**
- Individually we are lacking without other Christians with other gifts
- Dependence on one another shows godly fellowship

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**Decisive Cleansing From Sin**

**Hebrews 9:13-14 (NASB)**  
For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the **cleansing of the flesh**, **how much more** will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

- The OT sacrifices had to be offered over and over
- See Hebrews 10:11, 12; Hebrews 10:14
- Hebrews 9:12 says **“once for all”**

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**Redeemed and Cleansed**

**Titus 2:14 (HCSB)**  
He gave Himself for us **to redeem us** from all lawlessness and **to cleanse** for Himself a people for His own possession, **eager to do good works**.

- **“Cleanse”** is found in Ezekiel 37:23 LXX; Eze 36:25
- This denotes how we have become a people of God, suitable to serve Him
- The result is motivation to do good works

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**To Honestly Assess Our Need and  
His Forgiveness**

**Psalm 130:3, 4a (NASB)**

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But **there is forgiveness with You.**

**Psalm 143:2 (NASB)**

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no man living is righteous.

- It is a righteous thing to admit one's sin
- Knowing forgiveness means loving God (Luke 7:42)

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