

FELLOWSHIP IN THE LIGHT OF GOD – Part 2

1 John 1:8-10

INTRODUCTION

The last stanza of the hymn, **Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King** is as follows:

*I was lost in utter darkness
'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when
Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song
Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me
And I'll never walk alone.*

What beautiful words that capture the reality, the grace and blessing of the adoption into the family of God.

→ **READ 1 John 1:5-7**

“Light is a kind thing. But it is often acutely painful. The light searches us out, and shows us up.

In the natural state of man, every ray of Divine truth is pointed with fire and ignites a fierce resentment. The “arrows of the Almighty” burn and infuriate a rebellious spirit.

→ **READ 1 John 1:8-10**

Proposition: John’s simple message **applied** to unbelievers, and to believers as well.

So That: You and I will better understand being sensitive to sin rather than being callous to sin. So that you will know what you call “belief” is actually saving faith rather than just cerebral knowledge.

→ If you have truly believed, you will continue to believe.

→ If you have truly repented, you will continue to repent.

1st, John's Simple Message **Applied** ...

I. to Unbelievers **1 John 1:5:8, 10**

We are going to look at verses 8 and 10 first, and then return to v. 9. Remember, John was a Jewish man so he thought more in an oriental way of thinking.

Occidental Mind – more linear thinking and reasoning

Oriental Mind – more circular thinking and reasoning

Point – Those walking in darkness are marked by two marks in verses 8 and 10:

A. Deception

B. Defamation

1st **Mark** of those walking in Darkness ...

A. Deception **1 John 5:8**

Point – Deceiving self

Proof – “**8If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**”

“**If**” – v. 6-10 - perhaps better understood as “Whenever”

- remember all of these verses begin with the word “if”
- recall that John is alternating back and forth between unbeliever and believer

vv. 6-7 → when he talked twice about a “walk” – “practice” – he is talking about continuous action → what characterizes a believer, what characterizes an unbeliever

“**we say**” – a professed faith vs. a possessed faith

Illustration– **James 2:14f** – “say” vs. “show” and “see”

Point – What John is saying is the situation for those in v. 6, 8 and 10 is that their lips and the lives don't match.

As believers, we need to ensure our lives match our lips.

The unbelievers in v. 6 taught you can have fellowship with God and still live wickedly because the flesh is separate from the spirit.

“that we have no sin” – On the other hand, the unbelievers here in v. 8 teach you can achieve perfection. You can live completely free from sin on this side of glory – From the higher knowledge revealed through their secret teaching.

Remember end of v. 7 – “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” → **“we have no sin”** is a direct contradiction!

Result? → When we lie, we begin to believe our lie
→ **“we are deceiving ourselves”**

“deceive” – to lead astray, to cause to wander – to twist people’s thoughts, to cause what is false seem like it is true.

Paul uses this word ‘deceive’ to describe evil men – **2 Tim 3:13** – “evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Paul also uses it to describe our life before conversion
Tit 3:3 – “we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”

But the Bible clearly teaches we still sin.

James 3:2 – “For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.” **Phil 3:12-15**

Illustration – Ostriches dig holes in the dirt to use as nests for their eggs. Several times a day, she will put her head in the hole and turn the eggs. A myth arose from this that the ostrich buries her head in the dirt to escape from danger, supposing she

is safe. In reality, this would make her more vulnerable to attack.

Application – This is a great picture of people who shut their eyes and bury their heads in the dirt and say, “**we have no sin.**” We may deceive ourselves, but we cannot deceive the Lord. God sees the sin in us, even if we do not.

Application – Note the text says we deceive ourselves. You will have very little success deceiving others you are without sin.

“and the truth is not in us”

Point – These people have the culpable ignorance of shallow reasoning, devoid of the inward substance of Truth.

They profess to believe, but have only a superficial veneer of sanctification covering a thick and stubborn crust of impenitence.

→ But when the spotlight of the Truth of the Word of God shines its light, the light reveals the sin.

The mark of a true believer is not <u>sinlessness</u> but <u>sin-consciousness</u> !
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The evidence of indwelling Truth is the awareness of error; of sin. → One of the great signs of maturity in Christ is a deep and abiding brokenness over sin.

Pastor John, the Apostle of Truth and Love, identifies with his readers, even the unbelievers (in their humanity, not in their unbelief)

“not in us” → John’s primary goal is not to “get in your kitchen.” His primary goal is to show you there is a way of escape.

Application – Not for you to be crushed in the spirit, but to be set free!

The Unbeliever moves from bad to worse,
from **Deception** to ...

2nd Mark of those walking in Darkness ...

B. Defamation **1 John 5:10**

Point – Deceiving self and now defaming God

Proof – “¹⁰**If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**”

“**If we say that we have not sinned**” – goes from bad to worse
Not just saying we have reached state of perfection, but we haven’t even sinned in the first place!

→ And then we certainly don’t need a savior.

Progression: We lie → grows worse and we begin to believe the lie → final development → “**we make Him a liar**”
“**liar**” - is emphatically forward in the Greek

Tit 1:2 – “God, who cannot lie”

Num 23:19 – “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

But rather ...

John 8:44 – “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.”

→ Blasphemy! Defamation of God’s character.

“**and His word is not in us**” - using different words to talk about the eternal Word of Life

Illustration – Findlay – *“He who professes communion with God while he lives in sin, the dishonest man, the unchaste man, the malicious and spiteful man,-what does his profession mean? He virtually declares that God is like himself! He drags the All-holy One down to the level of Pagan deities. He brings to the Christian shrine the worship due to Belial or Mammon. He sees God through the reek of his own burning lusts. Such a one might have fellowship with Jupiter or Mercury, or Diana of the Ephesians; but not with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. No, not he. No more than the bat or the night-owl holds fellowship with the mid-day sun.”*

Beloved, friend, the man or the woman who covers his sin in this life, will have it uncovered in the next life → **Luke 12:2-5**

Application – Beloved, when we practically walk in the darkness, we are controlled by the desires for the warm soft underbellies of prestige and power and two-second pleasures.

Rather, let our heart cry be as **Romans 3:3- 4**: “What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar.”

2nd, John’s Simple Message **Applied** ...

II. to **Believers** **1 John 1:5:9**

Point – Those walking in darkness are marked by **Deception** and **Defamation**.

Those walking in light are marked by **Confession**.

While those walking in darkness are deceiving self and defaming God → those walking in light are confessing sin

Denying sin is part of what it means to <u>walk in darkness</u> . Confessing sin is part of what it means to <u>walk in the light</u> .
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Proof – “⁹**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”

J.C. Ryle – The Christian life is “*a holy violence, a conflict, a warfare, a fight, a soldier's life, a wrestling against sin.*”

Illustration – When I was training in Brazilian Jiu jitsu in Southern California, one of the men I trained with was a police officer named Dan. We called him “C-clamp Dan”. We called him that because one time he was in a situation when a man was out of control and Officer Dan and gave him a C-clamp right on the throat and that ended the confrontation. → The master-secret in fighting is to strike once, but in the right place. This is exactly what John does here! → Confession!

Point – We can state it this way ...

→ Continual confession characterizes Christians

“**If we confess our sins**” – “Whenever we confess our sins” → characteristic of believers!! Characteristic of those who walk in the light!

“**confess**” – *homologeō* – literally means “to say the same” - Agreement! Submission! Surrender!
To confess a sin is to say same thing about sin as God does.

Matt 10:32 – “Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.”

Rom 10:9 – “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;”

1 John 1:9; 2:23; 4:2-3, 15

Rev 3:5 – “He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”

1 John 1:9 - only instance in the New Testament where confess is used to speak of confessing sins. It is usually used to speak of confessing Christ.

This biblical confession of sin is more an attitude than an action.

Thomas Watson – *“Repentance is called crucifying the old man. This not done suddenly, but leisurely. That is to say, it will be a doing all of our life.”*

It will be a doing all of our life...a habitual, regular examination of our life and subsequent agreement, submission and surrender to God.

“He is faithful and righteous”

Heb 10:23 – “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;”

Rom 3:26 – “that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Illustration – Remember the cherubim with a flaming sword stationed at the entrance to the Garden of Eden to protect the way to the Tree of Life ...The same fiery sword of justice now goes hand in hand with the sinner.

There are really two works of God that we see here - Pardon and Purge.

Pardon - **“to forgive us our sins ”** – leave behind, forsake, dissolve, disband, neglect; let go, dismiss

Sins are left behind and dismissed by God.

But God doesn’t just sweep our sins under the carpet. He deals with our sins.

Purge - **“and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”**

He satisfied His righteousness by meting out our punishment on His son, Jesus Christ. Our sins are forgiven and covered through the wrath of God having been poured out on Jesus Christ.

Mic 7:18-20 - brings this out in beautiful, vivid color

Psa 51:1 – “blot out” – wiping clean like a dish

Psa 51:2 – “wash me” “cleans me” – trample

Point! → The habitual practice of sin and unrighteousness is broken. Sin is no longer the continual pattern of life. Sin is now an interruption of your righteous flow of life.

Beloved, Christ did not come merely to <u>cover sin</u> . He came to <u>conquer sin</u> . He came not only to <u>justify</u> , but also to <u>sanctify</u> . He came not just to <u>acquit</u> , but also to <u>reform</u> .
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Application – The ongoing effect of Christ’s blood is to cleanse our hearts in such a way that we cannot be content to go on sinning.

Heb 9:14 – “how much more will the blood of Christ...cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Application – When we refuse to deal with our sins through repentance and confession, we are burdened by unresolved guilt. BUT when we confess ourselves to God, it is healing to the bones. It is like a fracture being set and healed.

The aim of confession is not to erase consequences. The aim of confession is to restore joy!

CONCLUSION

Remember the message (v. 5) – “**God is Light**”

C. S. Lewis – *“We believe in God like we believe in the sun, not because we see the sun, but because by the sun we see everything else.”*

The light exposes the darkness. So that the dark places are increasingly cleansed of sin and become bright and fruitful places for the blessing of God.