

That You May Know

Light & Dark — 1 John 1:5-10
January 20, 2019

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

- 1 John 1:5

I. WHO IS GOD?

- John shares what Jesus shared with him and the other apostles—it is the message they heard and they now proclaim (2 Sam. 22:26-31; Ps. 18:28, 36:7-9; John 1:4, 8:12; Acts 26:12-18; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 21:23).
- Of all the essential elements that make up the being of God, none is more comprehensive than *God is light*.
- Not only is God light, in him no darkness remains at all. This is his essential character (John 8:12).

II. A LOT OF IF'S

- John refutes the basic arguments of the heretics of his day.
 - “If we say we have fellowship with him...” (vs. 6)
 - “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light...” (vs. 7)
 - “If we say we have no sin...” (vs. 8)
 - “If we confess our sins...” (vs. 9)
 - “If we say we have not sinned...” (vs. 10)

III. CONFESSION, FAITHFULNESS, AND JUSTICE

- The antidote to walking in darkness, deceiving ourselves with false assumptions, and calling God a liar is confession, self-awareness and genuine Christian fellowship.
- Some of our sin is based on deception, some is based on a flat out lie (vss. 6, 8, 10).
- When we confess our sin, God is both faithful and just to forgive us our sins (Rom. 3:20-26; 8:1-4).
- The good news follows the bad news. Truthfulness about self is what marks a genuine believer. And genuine believers always find a friend in Jesus (John 6:37).

KNOW: There is hope for those who confess sin and turn to Christ. There is no hope for those who lie about it.

DO: Do not call God a liar. Embrace the truth and know forgiveness.

Suggested Reading:

The Grace of Repentance by Sinclair Ferguson (LifePoint Library #230 FER)

The Heart of the Gospel by Robert Coleman (LifePoint Library #269.2 COL)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 John 1:5-10

1. What is the message that Jesus gave to John and the apostles?
2. John gives us five “if” clauses. Is he teaching an “if you do good works, you will be saved” message?
3. What does it mean to “walk in the darkness” and to “walk in the light”?
4. Why is fellowship possible when we walk in the light but not possible when we walk in darkness?
5. How do we make God a liar if we claim we have not sinned?
6. What is your immediate takeaway from this passage/message?