

## **“The Implications of True Light” (1 John 1:5-10)**

**This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 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. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **If we confess** our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

### Analysis of the Text:

The text begins with a general statement of truth: God is light. John then follows with five hypothetical situations contrasting what we say and how we behave. Three statements begin with, “If we say.” Two of the statements relate action, “If we walk,” and “If we confess.” What we say and what we do must be appropriately linked

With this in mind, John’s main purpose is to foster your assurance of salvation. He therefore shows us things we see and do, which evidence inner grace in our lives. These visible evidences include (1) our walk before God and a watching world in conformity to the light of God’s word; (2) our mutual fellowship, see verses 1-4; (3) our confession of personal sinfulness, the fact of original sin; and (4) our confession of individual sins.

These visible evidences act to confirm invisible inner works of grace; (1) that He has indeed forgiven us of our sins, (2) that He is progressively sanctifying us, and (3) that God’s light is illuminating His truth in our hearts and minds. These evidences act to confirm the fact that we are indeed God’s adopted children and to assure us of our salvation.

### Main Point of the Text:

1. What is the text about?

Answer: Having the light and truth of God in us and receiving both forgiveness and sanctification.

2. What does the text tell us about having the light and truth of God in us and receiving both forgiveness and sanctification?

Or: How do we know we have the light and truth of God in us and receive both forgiveness and sanctification?

Answer: When we walk in God’s light, enjoy mutual fellowship, and confess both our sinfulness and our sins.

3. Main Point of the Text: Join 1 and 2.

We know we have the light and truth of God in us and receive both forgiveness and sanctification when we walk in God’s light, enjoy mutual fellowship, and confess both our sinfulness and our sins.

### Main Lesson of the Text:

If you walk in God’s light, enjoy mutual fellowship, and confess both your sinfulness and your sins, then you have the light and truth of God in you and receive both forgiveness and sanctification.

Food for Thought: In this text, John outlines certain ‘family characteristics,’ of the adopted children of God. They walk in God’s light, enjoy mutual fellowship, and confess both sinfulness and individual sins. Adopted children experiencing attachment difficulties often chafe against the ‘characteristics’ of their new family. They do not seem to fit into the family; they refuse to walk in its light; they draw back from mutual family fellowship, and they affirm their own correctness. Change requires the inner work of God’s grace along with learning new disciplines practiced by those sharing the ‘family characteristics.’ When adopted children begin to instinctively share, by grace, the ‘family characteristics’ of their new family, they more confidently consider themselves as true members of their adoptive family. The same is true for us as God’s children by adoption. When, by grace, we learn to instinctively share God’s ‘family characteristics,’ we more confidently consider ourselves members of His family. Assurance of salvation is nurtured.