

INTRODUCTION

1. Please take God's Word and turn with me to 1 John chapter 1.
2. In our last study together, we looked at verse 5 where John declared Jesus' message that "God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all."
3. This morning we are continuing that thought as we look at verses 6-7.
4. In verses 6-10, which is a unit of thought, John continues his thoughts of verse 5 but now shows their practical implications.
5. Though we will only cover verses 6-7, I'd like to read verses 6-10 so you have the complete thought.
6. Read 1 John 1:6-10
7. Words.

8. Do we take them seriously or not?
9. I guess it depends on what is said.
10. If you're on a plane and you say to the flight attendant that you're hijacking the plane, then your words are taken seriously.
11. But what about when it comes to your relationship with Christ?
12. There are many who say they know Jesus but do their lives match their words?
13. Can they be taken seriously?
14. In verse 5, John said the message or words that he and the other apostles heard from Jesus was "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."
15. But now in verses 6, 8, and 10, we have those who "say" they are in the light but their words and life reveal they walk in darkness.
16. 3 times we hear John say in verses 6, 8, and 10, "If we say" but in verses 7 and 9 it's "if we walk" and "if we confess."

17. True salvation is marked by what we hear in verses 7 and 9.
18. But verses 6, 8, and 10 reveal the opposite.
19. They contrast verses 7 and 9.
20. Since God is light then those who “fellowship with Him” must “walk in” light not “darkness.”
21. Since God is light those who deny darkness or sin in their lives are liars (v.6), they’re “deceived” (v.8), and defame God (v.10).
22. And the results are they “do not practice the truth” (v.6) because the “truth” or “word is not in” them (vv.8, 10).
23. The gnostics “denied the reality of sin and evil.
24. Those who held to this mystical, elitist philosophy argued the spiritual was always good and the physical was always bad; they therefore created an artificial dichotomy between the spiritual realm and the physical world—contending that spiritual realities were all that mattered, and that what was done in the flesh (including sin) was a nonissue.

25. As John encountered this heresy, he had to unmask those who denied sin's existence and thereby sidestepped their own responsibility for it and its consequences" (John MacArthur, 1 John).
26. Adam Clarke says, "The Gnostics...were great pretenders to knowledge, to the highest degrees of the Divine illumination, and the nearest communion with the fountain of holiness, while their manners were excessively corrupt.
27. It's clear in verses 6, 8, and 10 what they believed about sin and righteousness.
28. They lived a life of sin and darkness while claiming a life of righteousness but the reality was they were lying deceivers who defamed God.

LESSON

Notice their claims...

I. The Claim of Fellowship with God (vv.6-7)

"If we say that we have fellowship with Him" (v.6a)

"Fellowship" Gr. koineia, "participation, partaker, partner"

Their claim was they had a partnership with God. They were partakers of the heavenly calling.

That's like saying they were Christians but the reality is...

A. They Walk in Darkness (v.6a)

“Walk” (present tense) Gr. peripateo, “live or behave.” Refers to lifestyle.

Paul uses this word “walk” to refer to lifestyle in:

Romans 13:13 (NKJV) Let us **walk** properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk** as children of light.

He also uses this word to refer to behavior in:

1 Corinthians 3:3 (NKJV) for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and **behaving** like mere men?

John MacArthur gives this insight when he says, “*Walk* is used throughout the New Testament, especially in Paul’s letters, to describe the effect, not of justification, but of sanctification. Salvation is not only a change in one’s legal status as divine righteousness is credited to one’s account, but a change in behavior as actual righteousness is given to believers by the very indwelling presence of God’s Spirit. Daily living of the Christian life is a Spirit-enabled walk” (MacArthur NT Commentary: 1 John).

Their lifestyle and behavior was “darkness” not righteousness.

John Gill said they walked “in the darkness of sin, ignorance, and unbelief.” They were “in a state of unregeneracy and blindness.” Their “understandings” were “darkened, and they know not God in Christ, nor have any true sight and sense of themselves, their sin and danger; and are ignorant of Christ and His righteousness, and the way of salvation by Him; and are strangers to the Spirit of God, and the work of His grace; and are unacquainted with the truths of the Gospel; and not only so, but go on in darkness more and more; prefer it to the light, love it, and the works of it; have

fellowship with them, and choose them.” They “take pleasure in the ways of sin and wickedness, and continue, and walk on in them; if such persons pretend to fellowship with God, they are liars” (John Gill’s Exposition of the Whole Bible, 1 John 1:6).

Paul said these false teachers were...

- B. They’re Liars and Do Not Practice the Truth (v.6b)
“Liars” (present tense)

Here’s what they really are. They don’t practice the truth. Practicing the truth is living and behaving in the light.

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) Let your ***light*** so shine before men, that they may see your ***good works*** and glorify your Father in heaven.

All false teachers claim to know God and be in the light but...

Titus 1:16 (NKJV) They profess to know God, but ***in works they deny Him***, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

John Gill again says “It cannot be, it is a contradiction, the thing is impossible and impracticable; what communion hath light with darkness? Or what fellowship can the throne of iniquity, or those in whom sin reigns, have with God? For God is light, and were they partakers of Him, or like unto Him, or had communion with Him, they would consequently be in the light, and not in darkness, and much less walk in it; wherefore they are liars” (Ibid.).

Jesus said in John 8:12 (NKJV) “I am the light of the world. ***He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness***, but have the light of life.”

John addresses this again in 1 John 2:9-11 (NKJV) He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.¹⁰ He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.¹¹ But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

It doesn't matter what one says. It what one says and does and determines the reality of a claim.

If you say you're a Christian but you constantly live in sin, you're lost! Your claim is meaningless.

Albert Barnes says, "We are false professors; we are deceived if we think that we can have fellowship with God, and yet live in the practice of sin. As God is pure, so must we be, if we would be his friends."

John makes a contrast in verse 6 of those in darkness versus those who are in the light...

C. Those Who Are in the Light (v.7)

He says, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

"Walk" (same word used in verse 6, present tense)

If you "walk" in darkness you do not have fellowship with God and you do not practice the truth.

But if you "walk in the light," you have "fellowship with one another."

Who is the "one another"?

It's fellowship with God and Jesus Christ. That's the context. He's not talking about other Christians though we could include them.

But the context is telling us just as it did in verse 3 the "fellowship" is with God and Jesus Christ.

Some versions and MSS., which, instead of μετ' αλληλων, with each other, have μετ' αυτον, with him (Adam Clarke, 1 John 1:5).

John Gill says the "fellowship with one another" is "not with the saints, with the apostles, and other Christians, but with God: We have mutual communion, and the Arabic renders it, God with us, and we with Him." (Ibid.).

Adam Clarke says, "Those who are deeply experienced in Divine things converse with God, and God with them. What John says is no figure; God and a holy heart are in continual correspondence" (Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible).

And because we have "fellowship with" God and the Lord Jesus Christ, "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

This is the reason why we have fellowship with God!

Jesus shed His blood for us on the Calvary's cross and constantly cleanses (present) us from all sin.

Because of this, we are made new.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ ***And such were some of you. But you were washed***, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Matthew Henry says, "Jesus Christ hath shed his blood for us, or died to wash us from our sins in his own blood. His blood applied to us discharges us from the guilt of all sin, both original and actual, inherent and committed: and so far we stand righteous in his sight; and not only so, but his blood procures for us those sacred influences by which sin is to be subdued more and more, till it is quite abolished."

CONCLUSION

1. What is your claim this morning?
2. Do you claim fellowship with God?
3. Are you walking “in the light as He is in the light?”
4. Or are you continuing to walk in darkness?
5. If you’re always living in sin, you’re not a Christian and you need to repent of your sin and be cleansed “by the blood of Jesus Christ.”
6. Let’s pray.