

Life That Is Real Walking In The Light I John 1:5-2:2

Introduction - The life that is real is a life of fellowship. Fellowship with other Christians, and more importantly with God the Father and His son Jesus Christ! John introduced the idea in 1:3. However there is an enemy of “*Life that is Real.*” That enemy is “*sin.*”

Nine times in eight verses, John used the word *sin, sins* or *sinned*. (vv. 7-10 and 2:12). What is sin? Literally it means “*to miss the mark.*” It’s action and attitude. Flesh or spirit!

So if we are to experience “*Life that is Real,*” we must walk in the light. You cannot be in fellowship with God who is light (vs. 5) and be walking in darkness (vs. 6).

So I want to point out to you from our text that “*walking in the light*” is based on three foundations. What does that have to do with fellowship or walking in the light?

John’s conclusion to the statement that “God is light,” vv. 6-7.

“If we say,” vs. 6, John introduces three false assertions (vv. 6,8,10). Ask, who made these false assertions? The Gnostics? So false teachers who had three false views of sin (vv. 6,8,10). In verse six the false teachers said “that does not estrange us from God.” (not true). Study vv. 6-7.

The contrast “saying” and “doing” or “talk” and “walk” and “light” and “darkness.”

Are you professing to have fellowship with God, but walking in darkness? You lie and do not the truth, vs. 6.

I. God’s Character, vv. 5-7

The character of God determines the character of fellowship with Him. Ramsay writes, “*If we lose sight of the ethical nature of God, we miss the truth on which all Christianity is based and land in moral confusion. The purity of the Christian corresponds to the purity of God. Without this moral kinship there is no fellowship.*”

1. The origin of John’s message, vs. 5a.
2. The substance of the message, vs. 5b.

This message conveys that God is light essentially; He is perfect, unmixed light. In the Greek it is “God light is” and John uses a double negative, “and in Him is no darkness at all!” Westcott, “*Darkness there is not in Him, no, not in any way.*”

But, what do we mean by saying, “God is light?”

- a. God is light in His majesty and splendor.
- b. God is light in His self-revealing.
- c. John no doubt has in mind that God is light in His moral perfection. or He is absolutely holy; absolutely righteous; absolutely pure.

God is Holy!

II. The Christians Confession, vv. 8-10

The second false assertion is that the first sin does not affect our fellowship with God, this second goes beyond that claiming that sin does not exist in our nature. Sadly, some Christians, have falsely come to believe that they no longer sin or even have a sin nature.

If you say that:

- 1. You are self-deceived, vs. 8. Literally, we lead ourselves astray. It's our fault.
- 2. The truth is not in us, vs. No truth in you. We lose the word. Our hunger for the word. We lose fellowship with other Christians.

So what should we do with our sin? Don't cover it. Illus.: David. But confess your sins, vs. 9.

- a. What to say the same thing.
- b. Confess what? Sins, name them.
- c. When?
- d. To whom?

Ask, What happens when we confess our sins? vs. 9 It's for Christians. John 13, Peter's feet. It's fellowship, not salvation. Illus. - Ps. 32 & Ps. 51, story of David. But we still reap the consequences of our sin!

The third false assertion, vs. 10. "This is really the climax of the three false assertions found in verses 5-10. One could theoretically agree that sin affects fellowship with God (verse 6), could agree that sin exists as a principle within our nature (verse 8), and then deny that he actually had committed sins (verse 10). This ascending scale of error is suggested also in the expressions "we lie" (verse 6),"we deceive ourselves" (verse 8), "we make God a liar (verse 10)," Curtis Vaughan.

It's saying, "I have never sinned!"

- 1. We make God a liar!
- 2. His Word is not in us!

You can't walk in the light, if you won't confess your sin!

II. The Cross of Christ, 2:1-2

These verses teach that it is impossible to “walk in the light” apart from Christ our “Advocate,” “Christ our propitiation.”

1. Notice who John is addressing, vs. 1. “My little children.”
2. Notice John’s statement of purpose, vs. 1. “...sin not.”
3. But we will sin, vs. 1. “And if any man sin.”
4. And when we do, vv. 1-2.

- a. We have a personal Advocate with the Father, vs. 1.

Same as the Holy Spirit. John 14-16.
He’s our “pleader” or “intercessor”

1. He has a unique relationship to the Father.
2. Yet He also was a man “Jesus.”
3. He’s also, “righteous.”

- b. “We have the perfect propitiation for all sins,” verse 2.

To walk in the light; in fellowship with God, and experience life that is real, you must face your sin!

How?

1. Try to cover your sin.

- vs. 6, It’s ok.
- vs. 8, I don’t sin.
- vs. 10, I’ve never sinned.

2. Confess your sin.

- vs. 9

3. Conquer your sin.

- Through the Cross of Christ.