

## 1Jhn 02 - Disciples Walk in the Light - 1Jn 1:5-7

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In our last message - we introduced 1John

& We learned that 1John is going to Repeatedly Teach  
THREE General areas of True Discipleship

- 1) True FAITH
- 2) True OBEDIENCE
- 3) True LOVE

& we started the book by learning that  
True DISCIPLES HAVE FELLOWSHIP

BASED ON - True FAITH - especially in 2 Foundational Areas

- 1) The Eternality (Deity) of Christ
- 2) The Incarnation (Humanity) of Christ

That was the introduction

Where John made it clear exactly WHO Jesus Christ IS

& if We'll Pray - we'll see what we have today

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Today - our text introduces the first major teaching section -  
& it does so with a very clear & absolute statement

GOD IS LIGHT

& then, we'll see a series of statements

expounding on HOW this truth - that GOD IS LIGHT  
must affect our lives as disciples

In this text - John does what we're used to seeing Paul do

He makes an Absolute Theological Statement  
& then he immediately APPLIES IT to our lives

***"This is TRUE . . . so THIS is how we should live"***

We'll see the Absolute Truth

& then we'll see **BOTH** - How we **Must NOT** respond  
**AND** - How we **MUST** respond

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Let's read the whole text for an overview -  
& then we'll break it down

### **1Jn 1:5-7 - ESV**

***5 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.***

***6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.***

***7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.***

**1John** is about the **Basics of Discipleship**  
(*what it takes to actually follow Jesus*)

**& John makes it clear today** - That a True Discipleship  
must not only **BELIEVE** that God is light  
but must **RESPOND** accordingly

**MEANING** - If we **BELIEVE** God is light  
then WE have got to actually - **LIVE** in the light

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**Two of the great things** John does in our text today are;

**#1** - He **exposes the Lie** of those who claim **Fellowship with God** but consistently **CHOOSE** to walk in the **Darkness**

**#2** - He **explains the benefits** of us **CHOOSING** to walk in the **light**, instead of in the **darkness**

There was a **WORLDY (false) teaching** **infiltrating** the church **THEN** - Just like there is **NOW**

& that is - That we can **be OK with God** while we are actually **Living in SIN**

& John is going to **Begin** today to **BLOWING** that out of the Water

& he's going to do that by Holding Up **God's Absolute Holiness**

& then making it clear - that **Our SIN** **cannot** have fellowship with **God's HOLINESS**

But at **the same time** we **realize** that we **CAN NOT** actually be **SINLESS**

& so John is going to **deal with** how we, as sinners, **CAN truly** have **fellowship** (Koinonia) with God

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***OK - Ready ??***

**John begins** by reaching back to the verbiage of last week

**In V.2** John wrote - "**We proclaim to you the eternal life, . . .**"

**In V.3** he writes - "**that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, . . .**"

& now - **in V.5** he **ZEROS IN** on the message today

**1Jn 1:5 - ESV**

**5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, . . .**

& notice the **Authority** & reference to the **Incarnation** (Humanity)  
**This is the Msg we heard FROM HIM (from Jesus, physically)**  
**and proclaim to you, . . .**

& then John gives us the **Absolute Statement**  
that is **the Basis** for our next **FOUR** Msgs

**1Jn 1:5 - ESV**

**5 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.**

John is **laying** the **foundation** - for **True Discipleship**

& **THIS** is the **foundation**  
**God is light, and in him is no darkness at all**

Remember - he is **REFUTING** the False Teaching  
that we can have **fellowship** with **GOD** - & still **Live in SIN**

& he says - I need you to understand a Basic Absolute Truth  
**God is light, and in him is no darkness at all**

& then - on the Basis of that Absolute Truth  
we can ask the Question - *"How then should we live?"*

& the answer to that question - *"How then should we live?"*  
really occupies the rest of the entire book of 1John

But HERE - John makes the Summary Statement  
that lays the Foundation for True Discipleship

*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all*

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But before we move on - let's be careful

because the New Age Spiritualism of today  
likes to use the spiritual descriptions of LIGHT & DARK

Just like the Gnostic Spiritualism of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century  
liked to use these same descriptions

Ultimately Gnosticism - developed some years later  
became about the Spiritual Powers of LIGHT & DARKNESS

Much like the New Age, World-Mix, OPRAH Spiritualism of today

John Stott says: *"the categories of light and darkness belong to  
the universal language of religious symbolism"*

& while that may be true  
The Apostle John is saying MUCH MORE  
than the basic INTANGIBLE concept of Light & Darkness

**Stephen Smalley - WORD Biblical Comm - says;**

***The declaration, "God is light", is a penetrating description of the being and nature of God: it means that he is absolute in his glory, [absolute] in his truth, and [absolute] in his holiness.***

Don't get "**New-Agified**" - that **everything that's LIGHT is GOD**  
That is **NOT** what John is saying

**When John says "God IS Light" - he is saying;**

God is Absolute in His **GLORY**

God is Absolute in His **TRUTH**

God is Absolute in His **HOLINESS**

& he is **describing God** as **LIGHT**  
to make the **CLEAR** & Absolute **Contrast**  
that we see at the **end of V.5**

**1Jn 1:5 - ESV**

***. . . God is light, and in him is no darkness at all***

John is saying God **EXISTS** - as **ABSOLUTE GOOD**

& **SO Absolutely GOOD** - that (*Emphatically*)  
there can be **NO Darkness** AT ALL - in Him

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**OK Dave - I Get IT !!**

**Man**, what's the **Big POINT**

**THE Big POINT** my friend, is in the Next Verse

**1Jn 1:6 - ESV** →

## **1Jn 1:6 - ESV**

***6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.***

**IF God exists as Absolute GOOD , & LIGHT - - - THEN . . .**

Can we **SAY** we have **Fellowship** (Koinonia) with God  
**WHILE** we are Walking in **DARKNESS** ??

The obvious answer is **OF COURSE NOT !!**

But guys - The **World-Mix Religion** of the **1<sup>st</sup> Century**,  
& The **World-Mix Religion** of the **21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**BOTH** - want to convince **YOU** - **that you can have both**

**What is it** in our culture that has **convinced** people

That they can be **OK with God**  
**WHILE** they are walking in **complete darkness??**

& guys - I'm **not talking** about people **outside** the church

There are **too many studies** that have proven  
there are **basically** the **same percentage** of people  
**Living in Sin** **INSIDE** the church - as **OUTSIDE** the church

**Sex outside of marriage** rate is basically same  
**Adultery** rate is basically the same  
**Pornography** rate is basically the same

Not to mention the sins of  
**Lying, Anger, Unforgiveness, Hate**, etc

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Guys - **PLS listen** very closely to me  
as I read **God's Absolute True WORD** . . .

### **1Jn 1:6 - ESV**

***6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.***

**Notice carefully the contrast between TAKLING, & WALKING**

**If we TALK - saying we have fellowship with God**

**While we WALK - in Darkness - - - WE LIE !!**

Meaning - What we **SAY** - is **NOT TRUE**

**MEANING** - We **DON'T** actually have fellowship with God

**THAT'S** a bit **Scary** - isn't it??

Now - Let's make it clear - the **GK VERB** - "**WALK**"  
is in the **Present Tense**

Meaning **Continually**, **Habitually**, **Walking**

It suggests an **DETERMINATION**

to **CHOOSE** to Live in **Darkness** (Sin) over **Light**

**Next week** - John deals with **Sin** in the life of a **Disciple**

**WHO** is **CHOOSING** to Live in the Light

But **here** - he's **talking about** a person who's

**Consciously**, **Habitually** **CHOOSING Sin** over God

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The False Teachers were Denying the fact  
that **HOW WE LIVE**, PROVES  
whether we have **true fellowship** (Koinonia) with God

But don't misunderstand - The Bible **NEVER** teaches  
that **HOW WE LIVE** can **EARN** us Fellowship with God

But **instead** - Thruout the Bible we're taught  
that **HOW WE LIVE** is  
a **SIGN** - a **MARK** - a **LITMUS TEST**

of **WHETHER** we **HAVE** fellowship with God - - or **NOT**

Guys we've got to **be Honest** enough to **LOOK at our life**  
& let our **Actions** - **Speak Louder** - than our **Words**

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Now in **Vs's 6 & 7** - we see the first of **THREE contrasts**  
that we could call **"IF - BUT IF"** contrasts

We're only teaching **thru V.7** today  
but it's the **FIRST** of these **THREE "IF - BUT IF"** contrasts

So let's **look** at **all three** so we can see  
John is **drawing** a very **CLEAR LINE**  
between a **NON-Disciple** - & a **Disciple**

Remember - Our **Subject** today is  
**"Disciples Walk in the Light"**

**& in these Three Contrasts we see very clearly**  
those who are walking in **DARKNESS**  
contrasted with those who are walking in the **LIGHT**

The First Contrast is in Vs's 6 & 7

**1Jn 1:6-7 - ESV**

***6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.***

Then - V.7 is the **BUT IF** contrast

***7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.***

Do you see it ? [REPEAT]

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**NEXT Contrast - Vs's 8-9**

**1Jn 1:8-9 - ESV**

***8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*** (Walking in DARKNESS)

Then - V.9 is the **BUT IF** contrast

***9 [But] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*** (Walking in LIGHT)

**We're not really teaching** Vs's 8 & 9 today

I'm showing you the contrast between

**Walking in DARKNESS** - & - **Walking in the LIGHT**

Do you see it - in Vs's 8 & 9 ? [REPEAT]

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The Last Contrast is in **1:10 & 2:1**

**1Jn 1:10 - 2:1 - ESV**

***10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*** (Walking in DARKNESS)

***2:1*** (half way down) . . . ***But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*** (Walking in LIGHT)

**Do** you See it ?

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SO - **Three contrasts** between those in **DARKNESS** - & those in the **LIGHT**

But in all three there is an **Overall TRUTH** we **MUST SEE**

& that is - - **Our FELLOWSHIP** with God  
**Cannot be separated** - **from the way we live our LIFE**

These are **very strong** statements;

**1) - 6 *If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie . . .***

**2) - 8 *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.***

**3) - 10 *If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.***

Look at the **Three CHARGES**

levelled **against** a person walking in **DARKNESS**;

- 1) - We **lie**
- 2) - We **deceive** ourselves
- 3) - We make HIM a **liar**

**YIKES** - that is ALL - **Very Bad News**

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Now - contrast **THAT** (*one more time*)  
with a **Disciple** who is walking in the **LIGHT**

**1) 7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.***

**2) 9 *[But] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

**3) 2:1(B) . . . But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

When we "**Walk in the LIGHT**"

- 1) We have **fellowship**, & the blood of Jesus **cleanses** us from sin
- 2) He **forgives** us & **cleanses** us from unrighteousness
- 3) We have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

I know it sounds like a **RIDICULOUS QUESTION**  
but **let's just** make it clear . . .

**Which one is better ??** → →

The Consequences of walking in DARKNESS - or  
The Blessings of walking in the LIGHT ??

Guys we KNOW the Right answer  
& yet the World so easily temps us into DARKNESS

& WHEN we find ourselves there  
the FIRST thing we do - is DENY that we're there

We're standing in the middle of DARKNESS - & SHOUT

- 1) We're in the Light
- 2) We have NO sin
- 3) We have NOT sinned

& we are;

LYING

we are DECEIVING ourselves, &  
we are Making GOD a LIAR

& we need - to be very afraid !!

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But the GOOD NEWS (the Gospel) is  
that you can go - from DARKNESS - to LIGHT - TODAY !

FIRST we've got to realize we're in the DARKNESS !  
& THEN - God's Word shows us - the LIGHT SWITCH

Have you ever been in a REALLY Dark room ??

I mean pitch black

can't see your hand in front of your face - - DARK

Really honestly - Aren't you AFRAID ??  
Come-On - including you big tuff guys

You get in an absolute **Pitch Black Room**  
& you sit there for a while . . . what starts happening ??

You start getting **Creeped Out**, don't you ??

& then, what do start feeling around for . . . ??

I know it's around here somewhere . . . where is it ??  
*What are you lookin for ? - - - **THE LIGHT !!***

OK - **NOW** - It's **REAL** - See - there is NO BOOGEY MAN  
in that Dark Room to get you **Creeped Out**

But what about Walking in **SPIRITUAL DARKNESS** ??  
is there any **Real Danger** there ??

Listen guys - our text today says very clearly

**IF we are walking in Spiritual Darkness;**

- 1) We **LIE** & do not practice the truth
- 2) We **DECEIVE** ourselves & the truth is not in us
- 3) We **MAKE GOD A LIAR**

Listen - forget about the **BOOGEY MAN** in the Dark Room

I'm talking about **ETERNAL LIFE & DEATH CONSEQUENCES**  
from you continuing to walk in **DARKNESS**

**Jn 3:19-20 - ESV**

***19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.***

***20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.***

**THAT** - is what **we should** be **afraid** of

**MAN - GET to the LIGHT SWITCH !!**

**Hit** the Switch in your life & **Start Walking** in the **LIGHT**

The **Consequences** of Walking in the **DARKNESS** are **REAL**  
The **Blessings** of Walking in the **LIGHT** are **REAL**

Get **out** of the **DARKNESS** - & Come **into** the **LIGHT** - - **AMEN ??**

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**HOW ??**

How do I **FIND** the **Switch** & go from **DARKNESS** to **LIGHT** ??

**Let's go backward in our text today**

- 1) **Recognize** you have an advocate with the Father **(2:1)**
- 2) **Confess** your sins to Him & believe He is faithful & just to forgive you of your sins **(1:9)**
- 3) Start **Walking** in the **LIGHT** as **HE** is in the Light **(1:7)**

& **THEN** - you will have Fellowship (Koinonia, Communion) with God  
**AND** with other Disciples

& the **Blood of Jesus**, the Son of God,  
will **cleanse you** from **ALL SIN** !!

**Let's Pray**