

# Commitment to the Church

1 John 1:7

**1 John 1:5-7** 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.

**1 John 1:8-10** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

## I. Light

**1 John 1:5-6** 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.

Light is a very interesting phenomenon. Physicist still do not have a consensus regarding its nature, having a difficult time to be precise in explaining exactly what it is. Yet, every person without a doubt understands that...

Light allows one to see reality for what it really is

**John 1:4-5** In him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**John 3:19-21** 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. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

### Walking in the light means:

- To open oneself up for God's appraisal, to see self and own actions with God's eyes
- To acknowledge reality for what it is really like
- To trust oneself to God's mercy

*The cross of Jesus Christ our Lord calls you to come out of hiding because on that cross he bore your punishment, He took upon Himself your guilt, received your shame and experienced rejection, which you deserved. He did all this so that you would not have to hide from God. He did all this so that amidst your sins, weaknesses, and failures, you would run towards the Holy God, and not run away from Him. He did all this so that you could live in the light, and not wander in the dark. He did all this so that in your hour of need, you may receive the mercy and grace of God<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> Paul David Tripp, *Sex and Money*

**Gen. 5:24** Enoch walked with God, and he was not,[c] for God took him.

**Gen. 6:9** These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

## II. Fellowship

**1 John 1:5-6** 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.

**Ps. 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! **24** And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

**Ps. 19:12-13** Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. **13** Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**1 John 1:7-9** 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. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### A. A common need

**Is. 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

### B. A common salvation

**Is. 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Jude 1:3** Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

**Rom. 1:12** that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

**Tit. 1:4** To Titus, my true child in a common faith.

### C. A common Father

**Eph. 4:4-6** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**Ps. 119:63** I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.

#### D. A common Spirit

**Rom. 8:15-16** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" **16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

**2 Cor. 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

#### E. One family

**1 Cor. 12:13-14** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit **14** For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

**1 Cor. 10:17** Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

**1 John 1:7-9** 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. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### III. Victory over sin

**1 John 1:7-9** 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. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

#### A. Illumination

**1 Thes. 5:11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**Rom. 15:14** I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers,[a] that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

**Col. 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

## B. Prayer

**1 John 1:7-9** 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. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**James 5:16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

## C. Encouragement

**1 Thess. 5:11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

## D. Service

**Eph. 4:13-16** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### **Do you want to have victory over sexual sin?**

Learn to walk in the light.

Grow in your fellowship with God.

Commit yourself to the Church, unity with it, and service in it.